# ANNUAL REPORT
# 1988/89

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# Ministry of Social Services and Housing

## SERVICES FOR PEOPLE

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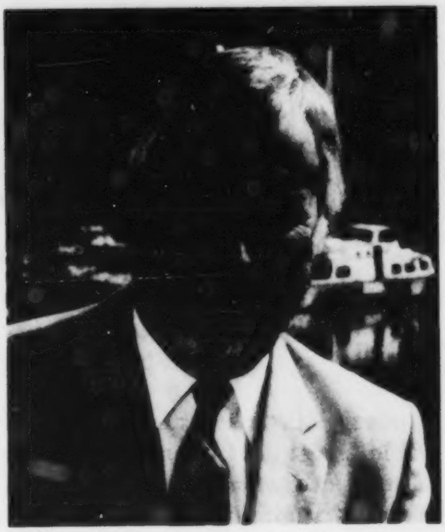
To the Honourable David Lam
Lieutenant-Governor of the
Province of British Columbia

May It Please Your Honour:

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Ministry of Social Services and Housing for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1989.

Claude Richmond
Minister of Social Services and
Housing



To the Honourable Claude Richmond
Minister of Social Services and
Housing

Sir:

I am pleased to submit for your consideration the Annual Report of the Ministry of Social Services and Housing for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1989.

Richard K. Butler
Deputy Minister

# MINISTER'S MESSAGE

The 1988/89 fiscal year has been an eventful one for the Ministry of Social Services and Housing as we assisted the people of British Columbia to achieve their goals — whether it be financial independence, acquiring new job skills or a new job, or independent living.

Some of the ministry's achievements include new services for families through Initiatives to Strengthen the Family, agreements with Native Bands and Tribal Councils for improved Native child protection, increased funding for day care, and the allocation of over 1,800 new units of social housing.

The ministry has worked in partnership with communities and community agencies throughout the province to develop programs to suit the needs of the people living in their areas. As well as describing these programs, this Annual Report of the Ministry of Social Services and Housing reflects the contribution of the ministry staff, without whose hard work and dedication none of us would have been as successful in reaching our goals this year.

Claude Richmond
*Minister*

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# SECTION 1

# *Introduction*

# MANDATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING

The role of the Ministry of Social Services and Housing is to assist the most vulnerable or disadvantaged people of British Columbia to participate in the life of the community.

Authority is given to the Minister of Social Services and Housing through the *Ministry of Human Resources Act* of 1979.

Persons who receive assistance under ministry programs include the long-term and temporarily unemployed, low income families and individuals, families who are experiencing difficulties, children and adults with mental handicaps, senior citizens, and children in need of suitable guardians.

The ministry's programs can be broadly divided into the following types of services: income assistance for persons in financial need; services to help individuals find or retain employment; services for families and children to support families and ensure the well-being of children; rehabilitative programs and services for persons with mental handicaps; services for seniors; and programs to help families, persons with disabilities, seniors and the hard to house older singles find affordable and suitable housing.

Policy, priorities and program content for these services and programs are determined by Government through legislation and cabinet and ministerial direction.

# MISSION STATEMENT

The ministry serves the people of British Columbia by helping them during times of need and assisting them to regain or achieve self-sufficiency.

The ministry has a statutory mandate to provide:

- Child Protection Programs
- Income Security Programs
- Services for the Mentally Handicapped
- Social Housing Programs

As determined by government, other social services may also be provided. To achieve this mission, the following goals have been established:

1. To provide financial assistance and support services to eligible individuals, and to assist those persons to retain or regain financial independence.
2. To provide care and/or support services which assist mentally handicapped individuals to achieve maximum independence and to participate as full members of their communities.
3. To receive and investigate all complaints of abuse and neglect of children. To fulfill this goal in a manner which maintains or restores the integrity of the family whenever possible.
4. To assist seniors, the disabled, and low-income individuals to reduce their costs for suitable housing.
5. To initiate measures to increase the supply of affordable rental housing.

# SECTION 2

# *Financial Report*

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## TABLE 1

## Summary of Estimates and Expenditures by Major Program Classification, 1988/89 — ($Millions)

| | Authorized Budget[1] | Actual Expenditures |
|---|---|---|
| GAIN Programs[2] | 941.0 | 938.5 |
| Rehabilitation and Support Services[3] | 172.7 | 167.3 |
| Services to Families and Children[3] | 123.5 | 122.5 |
| Services to Seniors | 36.8 | 35.8 |
| Direct Community Services | 124.6 | 124.2 |
| Administration | 50.2 | 48.7 |
| Housing | 19.8 | 19.4 |
| Total | 1,468.6 | 1,456.4 |

Detailed figures on ministry expenditures are available from Public Accounts, 1988/89, volume 1, published by the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations.

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[1] Main Estimates Voted (details are available from Estimates, Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 1989), published by the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations) as adjusted for transfers of funds during the fiscal year. The total budget includes $33.9 million from Vote 74 (New Programs), and $46.8 million approved by Special Warrant.

[2] Includes Health Care, Dental Care and Opportunities to Independence.

[3] In previous annual reports salaries for line social workers were included under Services to Families and Children and Rehabilitation and Support Services. They are now reported with Direct Community Services.

## TABLE 2

## Actual Expenditures, Comparison of Fiscal Years 1984/85 to 1988/89

| Year | Income Assistance and GAIN for Handicapped Benefits | Other Ministry Programs | Total Ministry Expenditure |
|---|---|---|---|
| | $ | $ | $ |
| 1988/89 | 868,283 | 588,109 | 1,456,392 |
| 1987/88 | 864,959 | 508,488 | 1,373,447 |
| 1986/87 | 856,354 | 644,626 | 1,500,980 |
| 1985/86 | 883,374 | 584,699 | 1,468,073 |
| 1984/85 | 855,197 | 561,843 | 1,417,040 |

# SECTION 3

# *Organization*

# MINISTRY ORGANIZATION

Early in the 1988/89 fiscal year the ministry announced a major reorganization of its regional structure and service delivery. The move was undertaken as a means of accomplishing four goals:

- improving service delivery to clients;
- improving employee performance, competency and morale;
- improving public confidence in ministry services; and
- creating a leadership structure which promotes service quality and accountability.

The restructuring included major changes in focus, staffing assignments, work unit locations and operating procedures, and allowed for greater specialization in the ministry's four major program areas: Family and Children's Services, Income Assistance and Employment Services, Services for Mentally Handicapped People, and Housing.

The number of regions was reduced to ten.

The reorganization resulted in very positive changes. The creation of 58 Area Manager positions was an important element in a more accountable management structure, and improved administration and quality control of services purchased on contract. The restructuring also allowed for the establishment of a new senior social worker position, a more equal distribution of services to the regions and a more effective coordination of services with the services of other ministries and agencies.

All organizations go through an adjustment phase after a major reorganization and the ministry was no exception. During this phase the ministry's attention was focussed on:

- completing recruitment, training and team-building activities
- resolving building occupancy problems
- rebuilding internal working relationships
- rebuilding relationships with other agencies and service providers
- and, most important, restabilizing worker/client relationships

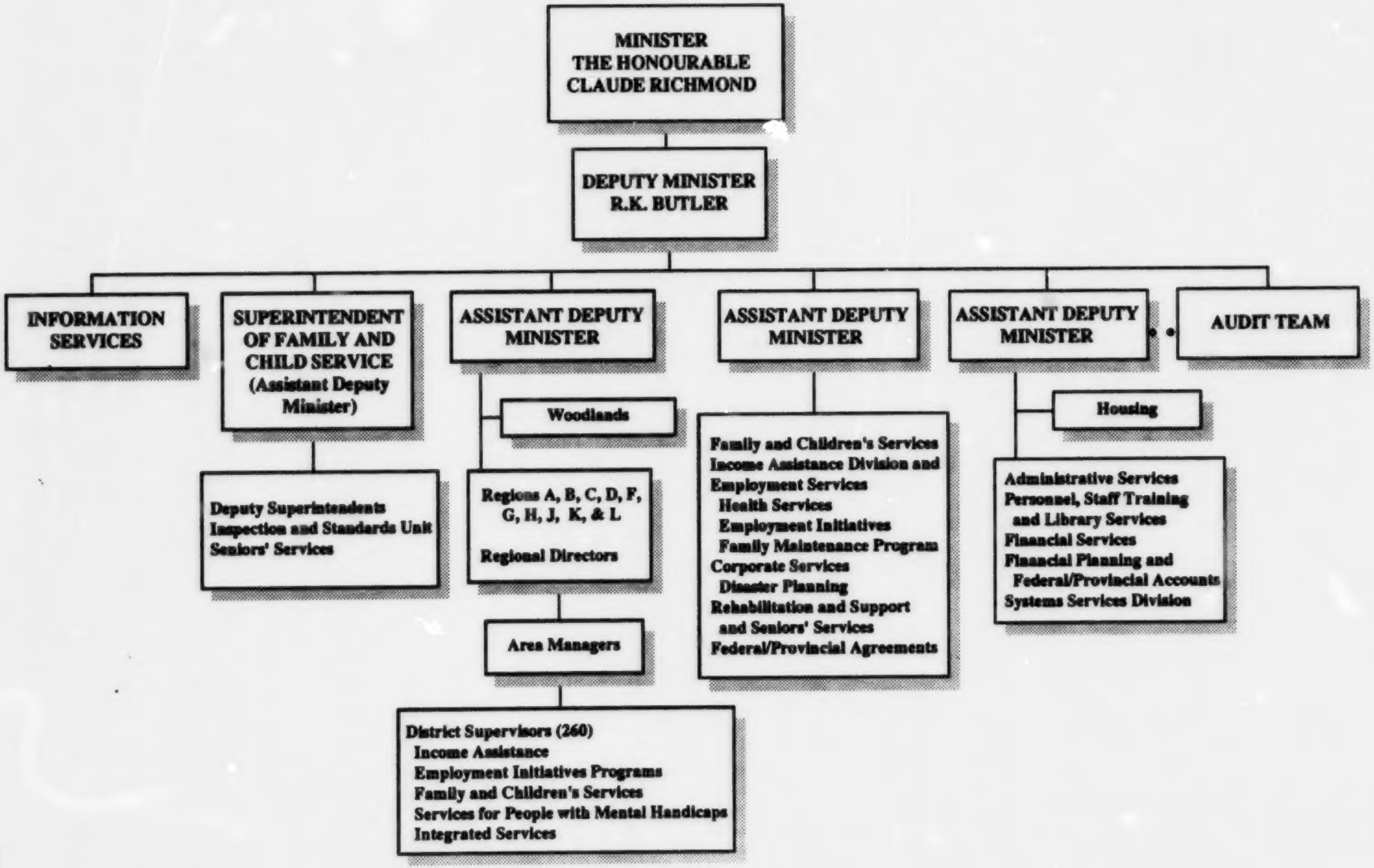
The length of the adjustment period varied from region to region, but by the end of the fiscal year all regions were reporting improved service to the ministry's clients and increased public confidence in the ministry's services.

An important initiative launched at the time of the reorganization was the After Hours service.

The After Hours service is the province-wide, tollfree number for 24-hour access to ministry services. The number is given out to doctors, police officers, foster parents and other caregivers across British Columbia. When an emergency occurs in their community they can call the After Hours Line. After Hours staff, located in the ministry's Region C, either deal with the call directly or transfer the call to a social worker on duty in the caller's community.

The tollfree line was introduced as part of the ministry's commitment to ensuring an equal distribution of services to all regions of the province.

## THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING, MARCH 31, 1989


MINISTER
THE HONOURABLE
CLAUDE RICHMOND
DEPUTY MINISTER
R.K. BUTLER
INFORMATION SERVICES
SUPERINTENDENT OF FAMILY AND CHILD SERVICE (Assistant Deputy Minister)
Deputy Superintendents
Inspection and Standards Unit
Seniors' Services
ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER
Woodlands
Regions A, B, C, D, F, G, H, J, K, & L
Regional Directors
Area Managers
District Supervisors (260)
Income Assistance
Employment Initiatives Programs
Family and Children's Services
Services for People with Mental Handicaps
Integrated Services
ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER
Family and Children's Services
Income Assistance Division and Employment Services
Health Services
Employment Initiatives
Family Maintenance Program
Corporate Services
Disaster Planning
Rehabilitation and Support and Seniors' Services
Federal/Provincial Agreements
ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER
Housing
Administrative Services
Personnel, Staff Training and Library Services
Financial Services
Financial Planning and Federal/Provincial Accounts
Systems Services Division
AUDIT TEAM

## THE REGIONS

### REGION A

Region A (Vancouver-Richmond-Delta) is located on the southwest coast of the Lower Mainland and services Richmond, Delta and the southern 2/3 of Vancouver.

***The People*** — Region A's strongly established ethnic communities, and the fact that the City of Vancouver remains a major destination point for immigrants and refugees, combine to create a very ethnically-diverse population.

***The Highlights*** — Negotiations began to provide multi-lingual service in some Income Assistance and Family and Children's Services offices. Many of the 31 district offices offer programs and services for refugees, and staff frequently call upon members of the various ethnic communities for assistance in translation and interpretation.

The Reconnect program is well established in this highly-urban region. In 1988/89, 15 new contracts were introduced under the Initiatives to Strengthen the Family program.

### REGION B

Region B (Vancouver-Howe Sound) is made up of both metropolitan and rural areas in northern Vancouver. The region is bordered by Broadway Street on the south, the Municipality of Burnaby on the east, Howe Sound (as far as Sechelt and Squamish) on the north and the Pacific Ocean on the west.

***The People*** — The population is as diverse as the region's geography; it includes high and low income families, street youth, a large immigrant population and seven Indian Bands.

***The Highlights*** — In addition to drug and alcohol abuse programs, literacy programs and life skills and employment preparation programs, a number of special programs began operation in Region B in 1988/89:

- The Inter-ministerial Street Children's Committee was set up to coordinate services for street youth.
- A Native Unit was established with cooperation of the Band Councils. The Unit looks at issues surrounding the delivery of ministry services to the Native population.
- The Deposit Project was implemented in conjunction with the Downtown Eastside Residents Association (DERA). The Project helps eastside residents open bank accounts and apply to have their income assistance cheques deposited through Direct Deposit. Residents are also helped to

obtain the identification they need to open a bank account and are counselled in budgeting and using cheques.

Reconnect has been operating in Region B since 1987/88, and 34 contracts were announced in this fiscal year under the Initiatives to Strengthen the Family program.

## REGION C

The Lower Mainland communities of Burnaby, New Westminster, Coquitlam, Port Moody, Port Coquitlam, Maple Ridge and Mission form Region C (Fraser North).

***The People*** — Families with young children make up a large proportion of the region's 350,000 inhabitants.

***The Highlights*** — Region C reported the largest decline in income assistance caseloads in 1988/89. This is attributed to a number of Employment Initiative programs operating in the region, and to the ministry's Job Action programs which offer counselling in interview and job skills to clients seeking work.

The provincial After Hours emergency telephone service, initiated in March 1989, is operated from Region C. The tollfree After Hours Line handles after hours requests from across the province, as well as calls to the provincial Helpline for Children. Workers on the line either deal with the request directly, forward the call to a duty worker in the caller's community, or direct the caller to the appropriate local resource.

A number of new Reconnect programs were announced in the region this year totalling $160,000. The new programs include a Parent Connection program, a self-help group for parents of teens.

## REGION D

Region D (Fraser South) is the easternmost of the four lower mainland regions. It takes in the urban, suburban and rural communities of Surrey, White Rock, Langley, Fort Langley, Aldergrove, Matsqui/Clearbrook, Chilliwack, Agassiz, Hope, Boston Bar and North Bend.

***The People*** — Region D's economic base is largely agricultural, however, the urban and suburban areas are both experiencing rapid population growth.

***The Highlights*** — An innovative program offered through Region D is the Two Parent Project, which focuses on helping two-parent families find work. The program (funded under Initiatives to Strengthen the Family) has proven very successful and prompted numerous letters of thanks from the clients.

## REGION F

Region F (Okanagan-Kootenay) covers the southwest corner of the province. Its boundaries include the American border to the south, the Alberta border to the east, Okanagan Lake and the Selkirk Mountains to the north, and 120 degrees longitude to the west.

***The People*** — The regional population is varied; Oliver in the southwest supports the largest retirement population in B.C., while single transient populations in the central Okanagan communities double during the tourist and fruit-harvesting seasons. Overall, the region has a relatively low Native population, and one of the largest percentages of persons with mental handicaps in the province.

***The Highlights*** — A Parent Counsellor program was introduced in the South Okanagan district to provide counselling in the community for children who formerly would have had to go to the Lower Mainland for treatment.

## REGION G

Region G (Central Interior) covers the south central interior of the province, stretching from Lillooet in the west to the Alberta border, and from Clearwater in the north to Princeton in the south. Six distinct geographic areas provide natural boundaries around which the regional areas were created.

***The People*** — The regional population of 220,000 is concentrated in the three major population centres (Kamloops, Vernon and Salmon Arm) and is a blend of low, middle and high income families. The economy is founded on the resource-based industries of pulp and paper, mining and agriculture and on service-based industries related to tourism.

***The Highlights*** — Significant growth occurred in services to the mentally handicapped in 1988/89, particularly in Vernon and Salmon Arm. In Vernon, the number of workers assigned to serve mentally handicapped persons increased from one to five; in Salmon Arm the number of workers increased from one to two.

Reconnect programs were initiated in Kamloops and Vernon in November, 1988.

## REGION H

Region H (Prince George-Cariboo) covers 900,000 square km in the geographical centre of British Columbia. Its boundaries extend from 100 Mile House in the south to Fort Ware (north of Mackenzie) in the north, and from Burns Lake in the west to the Alberta border in the east.

***The People*** — The regional population is concentrated in three centres: Prince George, Quesnel and Williams Lake. Region H is also home to a number of Native bands and tribal councils; the Carrier and Sekani bands are found in the northern areas, while the Shuswap and Chilcotin bands predominate in the south. The economy is founded on the resource-based lumber, pulp and paper and mining industries, and on agricultural activities.

***The Highlights*** — Highlights of the year include the renewal of the 1987/88 agreements for joint child welfare projects with the Carrier-Sekani Tribal Council and the McLeod Lake Indian Band. Under the agreements the ministry supports and assists the band and tribal council in their efforts to strengthen their families and promote the traditional way of life and language.

## REGION J

Geographically the largest of the ministry's regions, Region J stretches from the Queen Charlotte Islands in the west to the Alberta border in the east and the Yukon and Northwest Territories in the north. The southern boundary traces a line northward along the west shores of the Babine, Takla, Stuart and Williston Lakes, then reaches south again to the 54th parallel.

***The People*** — The population in Region J is found mainly in rural communities and small urban centres. The large native population includes some of the most active groups in the province: the Haida, Nishga, Gitksan'Wet'sueten and Treaty 8 Bands.

***The Highlights*** — Reconnect programs were established in Terrace and Dawson Creek in November, 1988. 21 contracts were announced under the Initiatives to Strengthen the Family program.

## REGION K

Central and Northern Vancouver Island, from Ladysmith to Port Hardy, and the Powell River area on the mainland make up Region K (North Island). The region is a mix of small inland and coastal cities and towns separated by park and wilderness areas.

***The People*** — Region K supports a population of 255,000 including a significant Native population. The regional economy is centered on tourism, and on the resource-based industries of logging, pulp and paper, commercial and sports fishing, mining and fish farming.

***The Highlights*** — Negotiations were begun with several Native bands to develop a series of agreements based on an existing child welfare agreement with the region's Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council. The goal of the agreements is to promote the traditional values and way of life by helping members of the Native community to take responsibility for child protection and family support services.

New programs underway in the fiscal year include forty projects under the Initiatives to Strengthen the Family program, and a Reconnect program in Nanaimo.

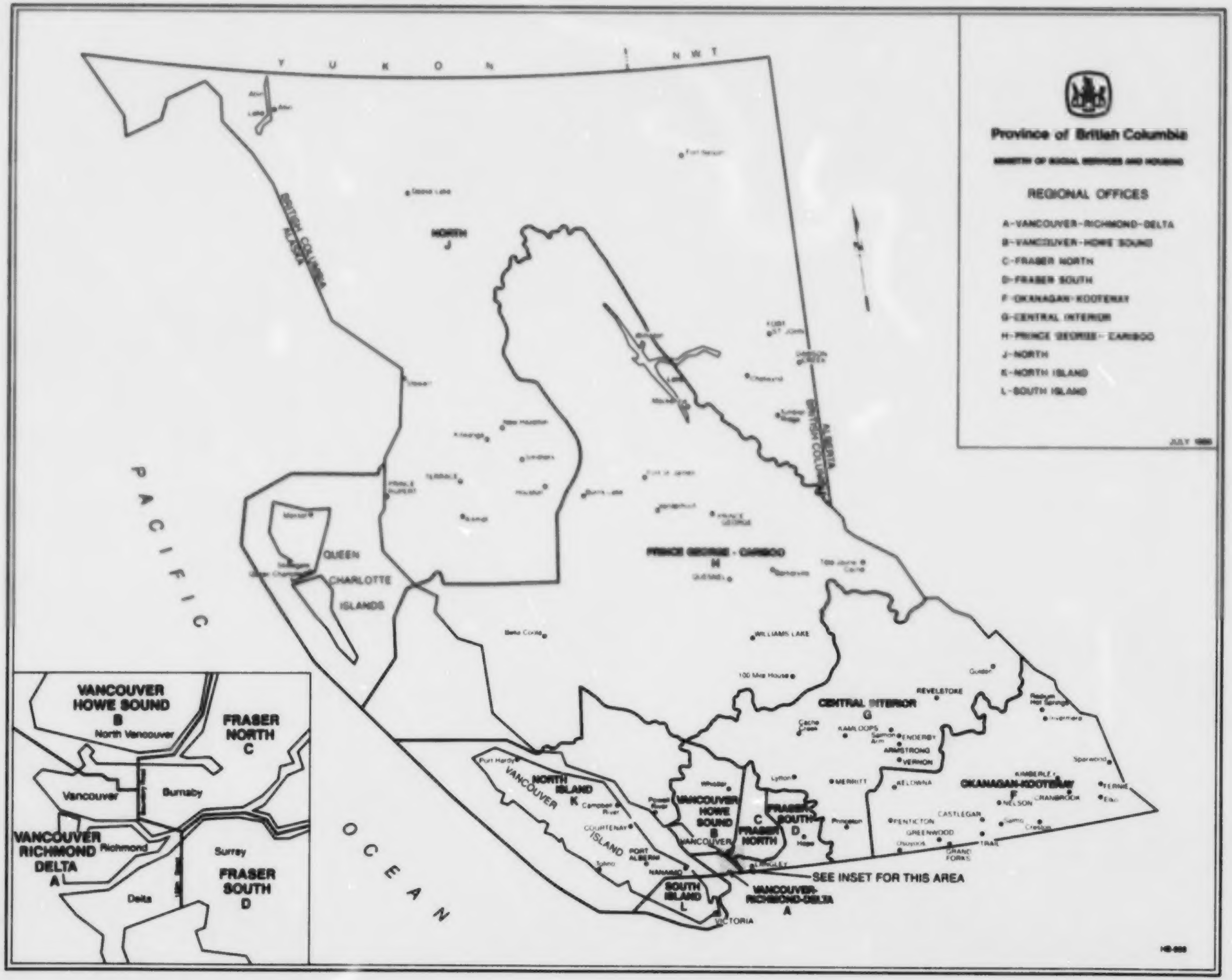
## REGION L

Region L serves the southern portion of Vancouver Island, from Chemainus in the north to Victoria in the south, and all the Gulf Islands as far north as Thetis Island.

***The People*** — Region L's northern communities are rural, with an economy based on the lumber and fishing industries. The area has a large Native population including the Cowichan Band, the largest band in B.C. In the south, the town of Sidney on the Saanich Peninsula and the Gulf Islands also have large Native populations. The municipalities of Oak Bay and Saanich and the City of Victoria together form the largest population base in the region, with a broad economic spectrum.

***The Highlights*** — 27 projects were introduced under the Initiatives to Strengthen the Family program including an innovative parent-directed respite service and special services to Natives.

The Reconnect program was fully implemented in Victoria.


Province of British Columbia
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING
REGIONAL OFFICES
A-VANCOUVER-RICHMOND-DELTA
B-VANCOUVER-HOWE SOUND
C-FRASER NORTH
D-FRASER SOUTH
F-OKANAGAN-KOOTENAY
G-CENTRAL INTERIOR
H-PRINCE GEORGE-CARIBOO
J-NORTH
K-NORTH ISLAND
L-SOUTH ISLAND
JULY 1985
YUKON
NWT
BRITISH COLUMBIA
ALASKA
ALBERTA
BRITISH COLUMBIA
NORTH
J
PRINCE GEORGE - CARIBOO
H
CENTRAL INTERIOR
G
OKANAGAN-KOOTENAY
F
NORTH ISLAND
K
SOUTH ISLAND
L
VANCOUVER HOWE SOUND
B
FRASER NORTH
C
FRASER SOUTH
D
VANCOUVER-RICHMOND-DELTA
A
SEE INSET FOR THIS AREA
QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS
VANCOUVER ISLAND
PACIFIC OCEAN
Fort Nelson
FORT ST. JOHN
Dawson Creek
Prince Rupert
Terrace
Smithers
Houston
PRINCE GEORGE
QUESNEL
WILLIAMS LAKE
100 Mile House
Bella Coola
REVELSTOKE
KAMLOOPS
Salmon Arm
ENDERBY
ARMSTRONG
VERNON
MERRITT
KELOWNA
PENTICTON
CASTLEGAR
GREENWOOD
GRAND FORKS
TRAIL
NELSON
CRANBROOK
KIMBERLEY
FERNIE
Golden
Invermere
Radium Hot Springs
Sparwood
Creston
Princeton
Hope
Lytton
Whistler
Powell River
Campbell River
COURTENAY
PORT ALBERNI
NANAIMO
Tofino
Port Hardy
VANCOUVER
LANGLEY
VICTORIA
Cache Creek
Vancouver
North Vancouver
Burnaby
Richmond
Surrey
Delta
VANCOUVER HOWE SOUND B
FRASER NORTH C
VANCOUVER RICHMOND DELTA A
FRASER SOUTH D

# SECTION 4

# *Superintendent of Family and Child Service*

# SUPERINTENDENT OF FAMILY AND CHILD SERVICE

The Superintendent of Family and Child Service is appointed by the Minister and is responsible for ensuring the safety and well-being of the children of British Columbia by representing their rights and interests when there is a need for protection, guardianship or support services.

The Superintendent is responsible for the administration of the *Family and Child Service Act* and the *Adoption Act*.

The Superintendent acts directly and by delegation. Duties and functions include providing leadership, setting standards, providing staff training, providing assistance and advice in individual cases, and monitoring the service on behalf of children.

- ***Leadership***: The Superintendent provides overall leadership for services to families and children, and offers guidance and support in maintaining the family while ensuring the safety and well-being of children.
- ***Setting standards***: The Superintendent sets practice standards and expectations to ensure consistency; ensures that programs and legislative mandates are carried out in a uniform manner; establishes expectations for acceptable levels of service delivery; and ensures accountability for expenditures and quality of services provided.
- ***Delegation***: The Superintendent delegates authority and ensures that delegates meet prescribed standards of education, training, experience, skills and knowledge.
- ***Assistance and Advice***: The Superintendent provides assistance, advice and consultation on individual case matters; critical incident reviews; special needs adoption; legal consultation and review of matters to be appealed; and case situations which may result in a need to address policy, procedures and practice.
- ***Monitor and Review***: In July, 1988, the Office of the Superintendent was reorganized to emphasize its monitoring role. Cases which come to the direct attention of the Superintendent include: case reviews by region; Family and Children Service Audits (to ensure the appropriate methods of case review are in place and that legislation, policy and procedures are being complied with); and Superintendent reviews (to ensure appropriate use of delegated authority, and that practice is consistent with the provision of safety and well-being for the child).

The Office of the Superintendent includes the Superintendent and two Deputy Superintendents, staff who undertake projects as required, and the Inspection and Standards Unit. The Inspection and Standards Unit conducts audits and reviews of actions taken under the *Family and Child Service Act*.

# SECTION 5

# *Family and Children's Services*

# FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

## Highlights of 1988/89

- A three-year foster home recruitment and retention project began in February 1988. The campaign included television and newspaper advertisements, community development activities and a range of corporate sponsors.

- Retention activities included an increase to the foster care maintenance rates, an increase in funding to the BCFFPA and a revision of the *Guide to Foster Care in British Columbia*.

- Two special needs adoption projects were begun in North Vancouver and Prince George. The projects are funded for three years and include recruitment activities, placement preparation and post-placement services for adoptive families.

- Almost 300 contracts were signed with community organizations to provide a variety of innovative family services through the Government's $20 million Initiatives to Strengthen the Family.

- The third edition of the Inter-Ministry Child Abuse Handbook was released by the Ministries of Social Services and Housing, Health, Attorney General, Solicitor General and Education.

# INTRODUCTION TO FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The objectives of Family and Children's Services are to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to assist with the preservation of the family unit. Programs are offered under the statutory authority of the *Family and Child Service Act*, the *Guaranteed Available Income for Need (GAIN) Act*, the *Adoption Act, Child Paternity and Support Act* and the *Family Relations Act*.

The Family and Children's Services provide a continuum of programs, from preventive programs which support and maintain families, to adoption which provides a permanent home for children who are unable to remain with their families. **Family Support Services** help families stay together and function as independently as possible. **Child Care Services** programs ensure the safety and well-being of all children. **Residential Services for Children-in-Care** provide specialized parenting for children with behavioral, emotional or physical problems when their own families are unable to care for them. **Adoption Services** find permanent homes for children whose families are unable to care for them.

## The Environment

The rate of population growth has slowed and includes immigration and migration from other parts of Canada. The number of births will increase in the next five years but will fall by the mid-nineties as the baby-boomers move beyond their child bearing years. The focus of child welfare services will shift to a younger age group as the proportion of teenagers in the child population declines.

Changes in the structure of families include a higher divorce rate with over 33 percent of marriages ending in divorce. The average size of families has declined, with most now having one or two children.

Historically, the proportion of the child population which has come into the care of the ministry has remained constant. For the first time ever, however, the proportion of children-in-care is declining while the child population is increasing. This is likely due to a number of factors including a new *Family and Child Service Act* introduced in the early 80s, improved social programs and increased emphasis on programs to strengthen the family.

# FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

Family Support Services programs promote and maintain the integrity of the family unit. The programs offer counselling, parent training, temporary shelter, and rehabilitation resources to help British Columbia's families function as independently as possible in their own communities.

In order of increasing intervention on the part of the ministry, the programs are: Children's Rehabilitation Resources, Respite Resources, Family Support Homemakers, Special Services to Children and Families, Initiatives to Strengthen the Family, Non-Residential Resources, and Reconnect.

## Children's Rehabilitation Resources

Rehabilitation Resources programs are available to help young people who are having difficulty in school — or who have dropped out of school -- achieve the academic and life skills they need to re-enter the school system or continue to further training or employment.

The programs are jointly funded by the Ministry of Social Services and Housing, the Ministry of Education and local school districts.

In 1988/89, the Ministry of Social Services and Housing purchased the services of 215 child care workers to provide behavioral management and counselling to students and their families. The ministry also contributed more than $6 million towards program expenses. The Ministry of Education provided funding for program teachers, facilities, resources and administration. There were 111 programs operating throughout the province.

Admission to the Rehabilitation Resources programs is through an advisory committee with representation from the school district, this ministry, the contracting agency and if appropriate, probation and health personnel. Students are assigned to the programs for one school term at a time.

### TABLE 3

### Rehabilitation Resources, Activities and Expenditures, 1984/85 to 1988/89

| | Contracted Programs | Children Served/ School Year | Child Care Workers | Annual Expenditures |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1988/89 | 111 | 5,100 | 215 | $6,016,006 |
| 1987/88 | 115 | 5,121 | 230 | 5,287,226 |
| 1986/87 | 123 | 3,667 | 226 | 4,900,896 |
| 1985/86 | 127 | 3,606 | 235 | 4,869,067 |
| 1984/85 | 139 | 3,493 | 228 | 4,694,682 |

## Respite Resources

Respite Resources are made available for families of children with special needs who are experiencing a temporary crisis or who need relief from providing 24-hour care to their child. The program offers intermittent out-of-home care for children with special needs to give families a needed break and to avoid further difficulties which might lead to the disruption of the family unit. The goal of the program at all times is to maintain the integrity of the family unit.

## Family Support Homemakers

Family Support Homemakers provide household management or child care services for adults with mental handicaps who are in financial need, families with handicapped children or families where there are protection concerns.

The ministry purchases homemaker services from both proprietary agencies and nonprofit societies at a rate set by the Ministry of Health. Families contribute to the cost of the service according to their income.

In 1988/89, an average of 1846 families and/or children were served each month. Workers provided 668,539 hours of service.

**TABLE 4**

**Family Support Homemakers, Activities and Expenditures, 1984/85 to 1988/89**

| | Number of Non-Profit Societies Contracted | Number of Proprietary Agencies Contracted | Families and Individuals Served/Month | Annual Expenditures |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1988/89 | 83 | 22 | 1,846[1] | $5,123,760 |
| 1987/88 | 87 | 13 | 1,167 | 4,622,106 |
| 1986/87 | 88 | 13[2] | 1,123 | 3,958,010 |
| 1985/86 | 88 | 23 | 1,145 | 3,978,294 |
| 1984/85 | 86[3] | 17 | 1,093 | 3,665,092 |

[1] A new system was implemented this fiscal year which resulted in more accurate figures of the families and individuals served.

[2] Includes four independent caregivers.

[3] In 1984/85, several agencies in the City of Vancouver were amalgamated for a net reduction of four agencies.

## Special Services to Children and Families

The services of child care workers are available for families with children who have exceptional physical, social or behavioral needs. The program supports families in caring for their children so they can remain in their own communities.

The ministry purchases the services of child care workers from nonprofit societies or private companies.

In 1988/89, an average of 1,156 children received assistance under this program each month. Workers reported 477,898 hours of service.

**TABLE 5**

**Special Services to Children and Families, Activities and Expenditures, 1984/85 to 1988/89**

| | Societies/ Agencies Contracted | Children Served /Month | Average Cost /Hour | Average Cost/Month /Child | Annual Expenditures |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1988/89[1] | 87 | 1,156 | $15.68 | $612 | $8,810,962 |
| 1987/88 | 82 | 1,747 | 13.89 | 396 | 8,293,870 |
| 1986/87 | 78 | 1,324 | 13.72 | 424 | 6,730,131 |
| 1985/86 | 84 | 1,330 | 13.02 | 445 | 7,102,194 |
| 1984/85 | 83 | 1,397 | 12.13 | 380 | 6,370,362 |

[1] In previous years, the figures given represented the number of family members served. For 1988/89, the figures given represent the number of children served.

## Initiatives to Strengthen the Family

In 1988, with a strong commitment to supporting British Columbia's families, the provincial government allocated $20 million to new programs to support and strengthen the family. The Ministry of Social Services and Housing received $16.4 million of these funds.

Across the province, communities were invited to identify their needs and to assist in developing and providing innovative services. The response was overwhelming; 299 contracts were signed with local non-profit societies for a variety of services including Family Advancement, Support to Young Mothers, Parent Training Homemakers and Supportive Living programs.

### *Family Advancement Programs*

The ministry contracts the services of Family Advancement workers to help parents to fulfill their responsibilities to their children. The Family Advancement workers work with the schools to identify children who may be at risk. Their families are then referred to the program and offered counselling in child care, behavior management and household management.

### *Parent Training Homemakers*

Parent Training Homemakers provide training for parents in basic coping skills, child guidance and discipline strategies, communications and household management.

Young, single parents often need special assistance and support. Two types of programs are available for them:

***Support to Young Mothers***

These programs offer individual and supportive counselling to young and expectant mothers. Parent training skills are emphasized, and assistance is given in developing a support network in the community.

***Supportive Living***

Supportive Living programs offer women in the last trimester of pregnancy a place to live, prenatal care, life skills training, parent training, alcohol and drug abuse education. Assistance continues after the birth, and the mothers are given support in making the decision to choose adoption or parenting.

## Non-Residential Resources

The ministry contracts services from non-profit societies to provide assessments, counselling, family support and work preparation and life skills for families and children-in-care.

The programs are offered to help prepare families to live independently and responsibly, to minimize placement changes for children-in-care and to help them to reintegrate to community resources and family living situations where appropriate.

## Reconnect

Reconnect, for street kids, was created to help young people living on the street leave it for a healthier life style. Because street kids often have little contact with their families or communities, the program attempts to re-establish this contact. Reconnect workers also coordinate available social services and resources to ensure that each young person receives the services they need, and that they are tracked in the system.

Prevention is a major objective of Reconnect, and a great deal of energy is spent encouraging children to return to their families and communities before they get hooked on street life.

Reconnect was evaluated in the 1988/89 fiscal year. The evaluation had two objectives: first, to determine who the street kids are (their numbers, ages, family histories, what services they have received, their involvement with crime and their experiences on the street), and second, to review the program and its services to street youth as recorded in the files of the Vancouver Adolescent Services Unit. The information obtained through the evaluation will be used to develop healthy alternatives for street youth. The results of the evaluation were not available by the end of the fiscal year.

# CHILD CARE SERVICES

Child care services are provided for children under the age of 19 and their families who live in British Columbia, under the mandate of the *Family and Child Service Act*. The objective of these services is to ensure the safety and well-being of the children of British Columbia.

The Superintendent of Family and Child Service has a statutory obligation to investigate all reports of suspected child abuse or neglect, and to apprehend and bring before the Court those children who are believed to be in need of protection.

## Inter-Ministry Child Abuse Handbook

First published in 1979, the Inter-Ministry Child Abuse Handbook details the Provincial Government's integrated response to child abuse and neglect.

The third edition was released in January, 1989 and was produced by the Ministries of Social Services and Housing, Attorney-General, Health, Solicitor-General and Education. The revised handbook includes a section describing an integrated approach to investigation and intervention. It also contains specific protocols for responding to special situations.

The handbook is available from Crown Publications.

## HELPLINE for Children

The Helpline for Children is available 24 hours a day, seven days per week. The toll-free number is a vital link in the ministry's child protection services. Anyone can reach the Helpline by dialing 0 and asking for Zenith 1234.

**TABLE 6**

**Child Protection Investigations By Reason, 1988/89**

| Reason | Number |
|---|---|
| Physical abuse | 5,338 |
| Sexual abuse | 6,101 |
| Neglect | 8,038 |
| Emotional abuse | 897 |
| Other | 3,678 |
| Multiple | 3,007 |
| Total | 27,059 |

**TABLE 7**

**Number of Children Admitted to Care, by Reason of Admission, 1988/89**

| Reason | Number |
|---|---|
| SHORT TERM CARE | |
| Parental Mental or Emotional Condition | 762 |
| Parental Physical Illness | 222 |
| Marital Conflict | 36 |
| Parent-Child Conflict | 1,122 |
| Awaiting Adoption Placement | 52 |
| SPECIAL CARE | |
| Child's Mental or Emotional Condition | 187 |
| Child's Physical Handicap | 30 |
| Child's Mental Handicap | 30 |
| Child's Emotional Disorder | 66 |
| PROTECTION REQUIRED | |
| Physical Abuse | 585 |
| Sexual Abuse | 247 |
| Abandonment | 310 |
| Death of Caregiver (Guardianship Unclear) | 12 |
| Absence of Parent(s) | 392 |
| Disability of Parent(s) | 663 |
| Neglect of Parent(s) | 465 |
| Deprivation of Necessary Medical Care | 20 |
| Absent from Home and Endangered | 366 |
| OTHER | |
| Death of Guardian(s) | 80 |
| Transfer of Guardianship or Custody | 1 |
| Relinquished for Adoption | 8 |
| Request by Other Province or Country | 41 |
| Total | 5,697 |

## Native Child Welfare

A number of initiatives were implemented in 1988/89 to further the goal of ensuring the safety and well-being of British Columbia's children while helping the Province's Native bands and tribal councils to care for their own children.

The Government's new Native adoption policy was implemented in the 1988/89 fiscal year. Under the terms of the policy, a social worker will work with members of the child's band when placing a Native child in an adoptive home. The worker will try to place the child within the child's band, or if no suitable home is available, in another band. If a suitable home cannot be found in any band, the ministry will place the child in a non-Native home provided the adoptive parents are committed to educating the child about his or her Native heritage, and, where appropriate, will allow contact with the band.

The Nuu-chah-nulth, Carrier/Sekani and McLeod Lake projects continued through the fiscal year. A change was introduced with the Nuu-chah-nulth project, however; in 1988/89, for the first time, full authority was delegated by the Superintendent of Family and Child Services to social workers in an Indian Child and Family Service program.

The ministry worked with the Nuu-chah-nulth and Carrier-Sekani Tribal Councils and the McLeod Lake Band and other Native bands and organizations to provide cross cultural training, and to improve services to Native people.

Finally, plans were announced for consultations between the ministry and Native representatives to determine what services are needed for Native people living in urban areas.

### TABLE 8

### Number of Children Admitted to Care, by Legal Status, 1988/89

| Legal Status | Number |
|---|---|
| *Family and Child Service Act* Agreements | 2,546 |
| Before Court (F&CS Act) | 3,009 |
| Temporary Wards (F&CS Act) | — |
| Permanent Wards (F&CS Act) | — |
| *Family Relations Act* and Other Wards | 83 |
| *Adoption Act* Wards | 10 |
| Wards of Other Jurisdictions | 49 |
| Total | 5,697 |

### TABLE 9

### Number of Children-in-Care, During and at end of Fiscal Years, 1984/85 to 1988/89

| Year | During Year | March 31 |
|---|---|---|
| 1988/89 | 12,219 | 6,376 |
| 1987/88 | 12,511 | 6,459 |
| 1986/87 | 12,849 | 6,832 |
| 1985/86 | 13,177 | 7,204 |
| 1984/85 | 13,407 | 7,535 |

## TABLE 10

## Number of Children-in-Care, by Age and Legal Status, as of March 31, 1989

| Status | Under 3 | 3–5 | 6–11 | 12–15 | 16–18 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agreements | 78 | 82 | 211 | 442 | 392 | 1,205 |
| F&CS Act[1] (Before Court) | 155 | 113 | 164 | 162 | 78 | 672 |
| F&CS Act (Temporary Wards) | 142 | 126 | 216 | 319 | 207 | 1,010 |
| F&CS Act (Permanent Wards) | 97 | 142 | 439 | 808 | 1,390 | 2,876 |
| FRA[2] and Other Wards | 7 | 15 | 42 | 112 | 202 | 378 |
| Adoption Wards | 107 | 27 | 15 | 11 | 4 | 164 |
| Other Jurisdiction Wards | 1 | 2 | 15 | 26 | 27 | 71 |
| Total | 587 | 507 | 1,102 | 1,880 | 2,300 | 6,376 |

[1] *Family and Child Service Act*
[2] *Family Relations Act*

## TABLE 11

## Number of Children-in-Care and Legal Status, by Region, as of March 31, 1989

| Region | Short Term Agreements | Special Care Agreements | Before Court | Temporary Wards | Permanent Wards | FRA[1] and Other Wards | Adoption Wards | Other Jurisdiction Wards | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | 63 | 124 | 73 | 128 | 430 | 25 | 17 | 6 | 869 |
| B | 46 | 52 | 84 | 134 | 284 | 23 | 17 | 6 | 646 |
| C | 73 | 74 | 79 | 117 | 382 | 38 | 28 | 11 | 802 |
| D | 67 | 82 | 57 | 122 | 411 | 31 | 29 | 9 | 808 |
| F | 74 | 63 | 57 | 86 | 200 | 25 | 11 | 13 | 529 |
| G | 51 | 72 | 56 | 68 | 238 | 23 | 15 | 11 | 534 |
| H | 30 | 35 | 78 | 104 | 212 | 64 | 16 | 4 | 543 |
| J | 24 | 17 | 58 | 74 | 175 | 68 | 12 | 4 | 432 |
| K | 69 | 40 | 60 | 85 | 242 | 41 | 10 | 4 | 560 |
| L | 63 | 74 | 70 | 92 | 302 | 40 | 9 | 3 | 653 |
| Total | 560 | 645 | 672 | 1,010 | 2,876 | 378 | 164 | 71 | 6,376 |

[1] *Family Relations Act*

## TABLE 12

## Number of Children-in-Care, by Type of Care, as of March 31, 1989

| Type of Care | Number |
|---|---|
| Foster Home | 3,134 |
| Independent Living | 392 |
| Parents' Home | 240 |
| Free Home | 230 |
| Adoptive Home | 304 |
| Runaways | 210 |
| Subsidized Resource | 1,733 |
| Special Resource | 133 |
| Total | 6,376 |

## TABLE 13

## Number of Children Discharged from Care of Superintendent of Family and Children Service, by Legal Status, 1988/89

| Legal Status | Number |
|---|---|
| F&CS[1] Agreements | 2,288 |
| Before the Court, F&CS Act | 1,154 |
| Temporary Wards | 780 |
| Permanent Wards | 693 |
| FRA[2] Wards and Others | 167 |
| *Adoption Act* Wards | 44 |
| Other Jurisdiction Wards | 46 |
| Supervision Orders | 671 |
| Total | 5,843 |

[1] *Family and Child Service Act*

[2] *Family Relations Act*

## TABLE 14

## Number of Children-in-Care Discharged from Care, by Reason, 1988/89

| Reason | Number |
|---|---|
| Reached Age of Majority | 781 |
| Married | 3 |
| Deceased | 25 |
| Adoption Completed | 124 |
| Repatriated | 158 |
| Requested Order Refused | 119 |
| Withdrawn from Court | 230 |
| Agreement Automatically Terminated | 255 |
| Guardianship Transferred | 277 |
| Returned to Other Jurisdiction | 34 |
| Intermittent Care Agreement Ended | 68 |
| Parent(s) Condition Improved | 1,131 |
| Family Situation Improved | 1,207 |
| Care Required by Child Completed | 787 |
| Termination of Supervision Order[1] | 664 |
| Total | 5,863 |

[1] Children who are returned home under a Supervision Order are not discharged until the expiration of the Supervision Order.

## TABLE 15

## Foster Care and Child-in-Care Expenditures, 1984/85 to 1988/89

| Year | Expenditures |
|---|---|
| 1988/89 | $26,429,240 |
| 1987/88 | 25,771,255 |
| 1986/87 | 25,162,035 |
| 1985/86 | 25,010,156 |
| 1984/85 | 23,006,269 |

# RESIDENTIAL RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN-IN-CARE

Residential Resources programs provide specialized substitute parenting for children with physical or behavioral problems when parents are unable to care for their child.

Residential Resources are available for children who are in the care of the Supervisor of Family and Child Service either by permanent wardship, temporary wardship, special care agreement, short term custody agreement or intermittent care agreement. Residential resources include foster homes, special care homes, group homes, specialized resources and intensive child care resources.

## Foster Care

The primary objective of foster care is to provide good family care for children who are temporarily unable to live with their own families. The statutory authority for provision of the program are the *Family and Child Service Act* and the *GAIN Act*.

Foster care is available in all communities throughout British Columbia for children-in-care up to age 19. Foster parents are carefully screened and approved by the ministry before children are placed with them. At fiscal year end, 48 per cent of all children in the care and custody of the Superintendent of Family and Child Service were being cared for in foster homes.

The ministry supports foster homes through its funding of training programs for many foster parent regional councils and through funding of the British Columbia Federation of Foster Parent Associations.

### TABLE 16

### Foster Care Rates as of January 1, 1989

Effective June 1, 1988, foster rates were increased by 7 percent. The following January 1, 1989, the special family allowance was increased a further $0.53 per month. The monthly foster homes rates, which include basic maintenance, clothing allowance and Special (Family) Allowance as of January 1, 1989 are as follows:

| Age | Maintenance | Clothing | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| | $ | $ | $ |
| Birth to 5 years | 222.63 | 40.65 | 263.28 |
| 6–9 years | 232.86 | 42.52 | 275.38 |
| 10–11 years | 261.77 | 50.22 | 311.99 |
| 12–13 years | 298.34 | 50.94 | 349.28 |
| 14–19 years | 327.15 | 60.60 | 387.75 |

## Special Care Homes

Special care homes offer specialized care in a family setting for severely handicapped or disturbed children. Special care parents who have enhanced skills or education provide care for children who require greater assistance or commitment.

The objective of special care homes is to assist children to achieve goals in their social, physical and emotional development in a home-like setting rather than in an institution. The provision of special care also assists families of severely handicapped or disturbed children to reassume their natural responsibilities.

Special care homes are operated on contract on a fee for service basis. Care agreements are designated as long term, temporary or respite, and a primary concern is to ensure the fewest number of placements for each child.

With the exception of respite homes for handicapped children, (most of which are special care homes), these homes are limited to one or two children or sibling groups.

There has been a noticeable rise in the number of special care homes over the past ten years. This is due in part to an increase in the percentage of children-in-care with serious disabilities, and to the difficulty in recruiting foster homes.

## Group Homes

Twenty-four hour skilled parenting and child care services are available in group homes for children with moderate emotional disturbances, or mental or physical handicaps.

The group homes are structured around a family model, and provide group and individual counselling and recreation, planned contact with the child's family, support services to natural parents (where appropriate), consultations with community agencies, and activities designed to help integrate the child into the community. Three to eight children can be accommodated in each home.

A similar service is bed subsidy homes, which provide emergency accommodation for one to six children in a family setting. Both of these services are contracted and are either privately owned and operated, sponsored by a society or operated by a society.

## Specialized Resources

Twenty-four hour specialized treatment and care are also available for children with severe behavioral disturbances through specialized resource services.

These services include respite care, receiving and assessment centres, emergency receiving, residential group resources and wilderness and ranch programs.

Many of the children taken into specialized resources have difficulty functioning in the community. Resource staff offer both individual and family counselling, as well as recreational, educational, cultural and employment-related programs to help children return to the community. Assessments are made at 30 and 60 day intervals.

Specialized Resource services are offered under contract with the ministry, mainly by non-profit societies.

## Intensive Child Care Resources (ICCR)

Some severely disturbed children require a range of services which call for a co-ordinated inter-ministry response.

The Ministry of Social Services and Housing provides the residential component of an inter-Ministry response, supplementing other services offered by the Ministries of Attorney General, Education, Health and Solicitor General.

Accommodation can be provided in a special care home or in a specialized group facility.

### TABLE 17
### Number of Child Care Resources, 1984/85 to 1988/89

| Resource | 1988/89 | 1987/88 | 1986/87 | 1985/86 | 1984/85 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Respite | 124 | 70 | 48 | 42 | 41 |
| Receiving, Assessment and Bed Subsidy Homes | 123 | 99 | 91 | 82 | 89 |
| Group Homes: | | | | | |
| Mentally or Physically Handicapped | 9 | 10 | 8 | 10 | 13 |
| Behaviorally or Emotionally Disturbed | 93 | 96 | 88 | 99 | 111 |
| Special Care Homes: | | | | | |
| Mentally or Physically Handicapped | 241 | 220 | 223 | 196 | 188 |
| Behaviorally or Emotionally Disturbed | 301 | 287 | 232 | 209 | 188 |
| Specialized Resources: | | | | | |
| Mentally or Physically Handicapped | 34 | 29 | 29 | 28 | 32 |
| Behaviorally or Emotionally Disturbed | 93 | 51 | 44 | 46 | 40 |
| Non-Residential Resources | 86 | 79 | 45 | 37 | 45 |
| Intensive Child Care Resources | 21 | 26 | 19 | 23 | 24 |
| Total | 1,125 | 967 | 827 | 772 | 771 |

## TABLE 18

## Child Care Resources, Expenditures, 1984/85 to 1988/89

| Year | Expenditures |
|---|---|
| 1988/89 | $67,841,077 |
| 1987/88 | 62,813,501 |
| 1986/87 | 55,729,610 |
| 1985/86 | 54,167,008 |
| 1984/85 | 52,575,796 |

# ADOPTION SERVICES

The objective of the ministry's adoption programs is to locate suitable, permanent homes for children whose parents are unable to care for them.

The programs operate under the authority of the *Adoption Act*. Ministry staff deliver a variety of services for children, adoptive parents, adult adoptees and birth parents choosing adoption. These include ministry adoptions, non-ministry adoptions, international adoptions and post-adoption services.

## Ministry Adoptions

The ministry arranges permanent homes for children who are voluntarily placed for adoption and children who come into permanent care of the Superintendent of Family and Child Service.

The ministry's primary concern when arranging adoptions is the welfare of the child and careful consideration is given to finding the home and family which best fit the needs of the child.

When a family chooses to adopt, an assessment is carried out to determine suitability, and to determine what type of child would be best suited to the family. A central registry of approved families is maintained in Victoria. As children become available for adoption they are matched with approved families. Once approved, the family must be prepared to wait — as long as five or six years. Some families approved for adoption of a child without special needs may never be matched with a child because of the limited number available.

Sibling groups and children with physical, mental or emotional handicaps are often more difficult to place. Special needs children awaiting adoptive homes are featured in the ministry's bi-monthly Adoption Bulletin.

## Non-Ministry Adoptions

Non-ministry adoptions are those in which the placement of a child is arranged privately, or with relatives. In all private adoptions, the court requires the Superintendent to submit a report on the circumstances of the placement and to make a recommendation regarding the granting of an adoption order. In adoptions by step-parents and relatives, the superintendent becomes involved only when requested by the court. Information for the Superintendent's report is obtained through a post-placement inquiry conducted by ministry staff.

## International Adoptions

Due in part to the lengthy wait required to adopt a healthy infant and to the rising number of private adoptions, more and more couples are choosing to adopt a child from out-of-country. The ministry works with the National Adoption Desk of Health and Welfare Canada to find adoptive homes for children from other countries with whom we have agreements.

## Post Adoption Services

Post adoption services are provided to adoptees and adopting parents after an adoption has been legalized. Ministry staff provide adoptees who wish to learn more about their background with non-identifying medical and background information upon request.

**TABLE 19**

**Number of Children Placed for Adoption by the Ministry of Social Services and Housing 1984/85 to 1988/89**

| Category | 1988/89 | 1987/88 | 1986/87 | 1985/86 | 1984/85 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Children placed from: | | | | | |
| —Within B.C. | | | | | |
| —in B.C. | 209 | 307 | 381 | 342 | 388 |
| —to other provinces | 4 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 2 |
| —to other countries | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| —Other Provinces into B.C. | 8 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| —Other Countries into B.C. | 49 | 35 | 35 | 57 | 36 |
| Total Children Placed | 270 | 352 | 423 | 407 | 428 |

**TABLE 20**

**Number of Adoption Placements Made by the Ministry of Social Services and Housing, by Type of Placement, 1984/85 to 1988/89**

| Type of Placement | 1988/89 | 1987/88 | 1986/87 | 1985/86 | 1984/85 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hospital to Adoption Home | 51 | 72 | 75 | 92 | 117 |
| Foster Home to Adoption Home | 123 | 182 | 239 | 190 | 243 |
| Foster Home Changed to Adoption Home | 47 | 63 | 73 | 68 | 68 |
| International | 49 | 35 | 36 | 57 | — |
| Total | 270 | 352 | 423 | 407 | 428 |

### TABLE 21

### Number of Children Placed for Adoption by the Ministry of Social Services and Housing, by Category, 1984/85 to 1988/89

| Category | 1988/89 | 1987/88 | 1986/87 | 1985/86 | 1984/85 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Healthy Infants | 122 | 150 | 183 | 116 | 147 |
| Children With Special Needs | 148 | 202 | 240 | 291 | 281 |
| Total | 270 | 352 | 423 | 407 | 428 |

### TABLE 22

### Number of Children Placed for Adoption by the Ministry of Social Services and Housing, by Age, 1984/85 to 1988/89

| Age | 1988/89 | 1987/88 | 1986/87 | 1985/86 | 1984/85 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 to 23 months | 146 | 182 | 217 | 229 | 263 |
| 2 to 5 years | 61 | 86 | 117 | 88 | 93 |
| 6 to 12 years | 41 | 67 | 76 | 77 | 59 |
| 13 years and over | 22 | 17 | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| Total | 270 | 352 | 423 | 407 | 428 |

### TABLE 23

### Adoption Reports Submitted to the Supreme Court, 1984/85 to 1988/89

| Type | 1988/89 | 1987/88 | 1986/87 | 1985/86 | 1984/85 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stepparent | 1 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Relative | — | 0 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Private | 108 | 155 | 119 | 119 | 105 |
| Total | 109 | 161 | 124 | 125 | 113 |

### TABLE 24

### Approved Adoption Homes, by Type of Child Requested, as of March 31, 1985 to 1989

| Category | 1988/89 | 1987/88 | 1986/87 | 1985/86 | 1984/85 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Healthy infants | 27 | 36 | 59 | 50 | 193 |
| Healthy infants or children with special needs | 298 | 319 | 308 | 259 | 199 |
| Children with special needs | 64 | 81 | 85 | 242 | 314 |
| Total | 389 | 436 | 452 | 551 | 706 |

# SECTION 6

# *Rehabilitation and Support Services*

# REHABILITATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

## Highlights of 1988/89

- In recognition of the higher costs associated with caring for children from 0–18 months of age, an infant care rate was introduced, effective June 1, 1988.
- The day care subsidy for parents who are students was increased. An additional $100 exemption was given to students, effective September 1, 1988, making the student exemption equal to the working adult exemption.
- The Community Living for Persons with Mental Handicaps project continued as a total of 140 residents moved into small family-like homes in communities throughout British Columbia.

# INTRODUCTION TO REHABILITATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

The Rehabilitation and Support Services Division's programs are offered with the objective of helping individuals and families to maximize their potential and become as independent as possible. The programs are provided under the authority of the *Guaranteed Available Income for Need (GAIN) Act*.

Programs are offered in the areas of **Day Care, Support to Children with Special Needs, Services for Persons with Mental Handicaps, Community Projects** and **Services to Seniors**. (*See* Section 8 "Services to Seniors".)

## The Environment

As the percentage of young children in the child population increases, the younger age group will create an increased demand for child care services and infant development programs. This will be accentuated by the growing number of single parent families headed by women and the rising percentage of women of child bearing age entering the work force.

Deinstitutionalization will create a need for more programs which offer support to the handicapped in their own communities.

## DAY CARE

The ministry's regular day care programs are designed to help eligible families with the cost of day care and to ensure that adequate day care is available through the provision of day care grants and subsidies and other forms of support to the operators of day care facilities.

### Day Care Subsidy

Eligible families of children up to and including age 12 may receive assistance with the cost of day care in both licensed and unlicensed family day care, group day care, in-own-home day care, nursery school and out-of-school day care facilities.

Eligibility is based on both financial and social criteria established by the GAIN Regulations and the Canada Assistance Plan. Most of the parents receiving this assistance are working or attending school.

Expenditures for 1988/89 totalled $30,113,828.

On June 1, 1988, the ministry introduced an infant care rate, in recognition of the higher costs associated with caring for children up to the age of 18 months. A total of $1,745,144 was expended on Infant Day Care in 1988/89.

### Day Care Grant

Emergency funding to a maximum of $5000 is available for nonprofit societies that provide day care services to assist with the costs of emergency repairs or relocation.

The objective of the program is to preserve day care spaces. In 1988/89, the ministry helped to preserve 1471 spaces by providing emergency repair and relocation grants.

Expenditures for 1988/89 totalled $199,021.

### Day Care Support

The ministry contracts with four nonprofit societies to recruit and train family day care providers. The objectives of these activities are to support providers of family day care and enhance the quality and number of available homes.

Two other programs assist with the coordination of university day care services on the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University campuses.

Cost of providing the Day Care Support Programs in 1988/89 was $187,956.

# SUPPORT TO CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Special needs day care and infant development programs are included under support to children with special needs.

## Special Needs Day Care

The objective of special needs day care is to help children with special needs to participate in day care programs by providing extra supports which address the specific needs of each child.

The program offers specialized care, activities and supervision all designed to help children with special needs to realize their social, emotional, physical and intellectual potential, and to assist their parents to achieve or maintain independence.

The ministry contracts with nonprofit societies to provide 93 programs offering 1,366 specialized day care spaces in both specialized and integrated centres. In addition, the ministry funded an average of 356 special needs children in non-contracted spaces in family day care homes, group day care centres and nursery schools for each month in 1988/89.

Parents of children with special needs are not income tested for specialized day care services. In 1988/89, $8,110,037 was spent on contracted specialized day care spaces. A further $2,023,067 was spent for special needs children in family day care homes, group day care centres and nursery schools.

Recent figures indicate a move towards integration of special needs children. Operators of regular day care centres are being encouraged to take special needs children into their facilities, and typical children are being accepted into specialized centres.

## Infant Development Program

Home-based service by professionally trained infant development consultants is available for parents of infants who display significant developmental delays as a result of mental or physical handicaps.

The objective of the Infant Development program is to help parents develop positive and realistic expectations of their child's abilities, and to teach the parents how to encourage and support their child's development.

In August 1988, the Policy and Procedures Manual for the Infant Development Program was released. The manual establishes the terms of reference and guidelines for the development and operation of the Infant Development programs funded by the ministry.

An evaluation tool developed in New Zealand was used for the first time in 1988/89 to evaluate nine Infant Development programs. Evaluations are carried out at the request of the individual contracting societies and provide useful information to program staff, allowing them to improve services and better meet objectives.

The ministry funded 37 Infant Development programs in 1988/89. While it is difficult to estimate the number of children who participated in the program, services were provided to as many as 1,399 at any given time.

Expenditures totalled $2,364,594.

### TABLE 25

### Average Monthly Day Care Subsidy and Average Monthly Number of Children Subsidized, 1988/89

| Type of Care | Average Monthly Cost/Child | Average Monthly Total Cost | Average No. Children/Month Half Days | Average No. Children/Month Full Days |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Family | $167 | $952,020 | 501 | 5,207 |
| Group | 238 | 842,187 | 135 | 3,410 |
| In Own Home | 116 | 376,591 | 679 | 2,570 |
| Out of School | 103 | 255,110 | 1,328 | 1,154 |
| Nursery | 48 | 48,241 | 995 | — |
| Special Needs | 518 | 180,766 | 112 | 237 |
| Total | n/a | 2,654,915 | 3,750 | 12,578 |

# SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH MENTAL HANDICAPS

Services for Persons with Mental Handicaps are offered under the authority of the *GAIN Act* (section 2) and the GAIN Regulations (section 15).

Designed with the objective of assisting individuals or families to become as independent as possible, the programs include: Community Residential Care, Woodlands, Training and Support Programs and Professional Support Services.

## Community Residential Care

The Community Residential Care program provides adults with mental handicaps with places to live in their own communities, and fosters as much independence as possible while ensuring the individuals' needs are being met. Services range from full personal care to counselling and support for independent living.

There are four program models: the Community Residences Program, the Semi-Independent Living Program, Intensive Adult Care Services and Respite Care.

### *The Community Residences Program*

The ministry contracts the services of nonprofit societies, individuals, partnerships and limited companies to provide community residences for adults with mental handicaps.

The residences vary in size from small family care homes to larger residential facilities. Homes for three or more residents must be licensed under the *Community Care Facility Act* and Adult Care Regulations.

The contractors are responsible for ensuring the basic needs of food, shelter and clothing are met: personal care, supervision, recreation and transportation are available; assessments are carried out; skills training and behavior management are provided; and residents have access to the community.

### *The Semi-Independent Living Program*

In-home support is provided for adults with mental handicaps to allow them to live in their own communities. The level of support varies according to the needs of the individual.

### *Intensive Adult Care Services*

Short-term, intensive community-based care is available for individuals who have behavior and/or adjustment problems. This assistance is often provided in response to an emergency in the client's original residential placement. Assistance may also be required to assist a client's transition into the community, and may include emergency respite services and behavior management.

The program's design allows a client to remain in the community while receiving specialized care that is not available as a regular resource.

***Respite Care***

Emergency and short-term respite care is provided for the family or care provider of adults with mental handicaps.

In 1988/89, 2,604 clients were served through the Community Residences programs. Expenditures totalled $56,299,129 including capital grants and start-up funds.

**TABLE 26**

**Number of Community Residences for the Mentally Handicapped and Residential Spaces by Region 1988/89**

| Regions | Residences | Spaces |
|---|---|---|
| A and B | 118 | 469 |
| C | 110 | 285 |
| D | 103 | 332 |
| F | 71 | 331 |
| G | 91 | 402 |
| H | 28 | 142 |
| J | 18 | 62 |
| K | 124 | 276 |
| L | 97 | 305 |
| Total | 760 | 2,604 |

Residences include nonprofit group homes, licensed proprietary boarding homes, one- and two-bed unlicensed homes, semi-independent living homes and community worker programs.

## Woodlands

Woodlands, which has served as a residential and training centre for persons with mental handicaps since before the turn of the century, continued to place residents in the community through the 1988/89 fiscal year.

1988/89 saw the completion of **Project 88** and the commencement of **Project 89**. Project 88 saw the relocation of 104 Woodlands residents into new community homes by the end of April 1988. Five wards at Woodlands were closed permanently. It is important to note that no jobs were lost through the closures; all staffing reductions were achieved through attrition.

Project 89 required community placement planning for an additional 140 residents from both Woodlands and Alder Lodge, a 40-bed facility administered by Woodlands.

Before residents can leave Woodlands there is an intensive 12 to 15 month planning process which involves the residents themselves, their families, Woodlands staff, ministry staff and caregivers.

### TABLE 27

### Population Totals and Annual Expenditures, 1984/85 to 1988/89

Resident population totals and annual expenditures over a five-year period including 1988/89 were as follows:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| March 31, 1985 | 675 residents | $34,000,226 | (84/85) |
| March 31, 1986 | 654 residents | 33,616,087 | (85/86) |
| March 31, 1987 | 604 residents | 32,409,359 | (86/87) |
| March 31, 1988 | 528 residents | 33,331,813 | (87/88) |
| March 31, 1989 | 488 residents | 28,932,026 | (88/89) |

During the 1988/89 fiscal year, Woodlands continued to serve as a support service for the community. Eleven individuals were admitted, primarily for short-term assessment and treatment, and 92 persons were assessed on an outpatient basis. Woodlands' role as a back-up specialized support for the community during the deinstitutionalization process has been viewed as a vital link in the success of the program.

## Training and Support Programs

Training and Support programs for adults with mental handicaps include employment initiatives, self-help skills, achievement centres and supported work placements.

### *Employment Initiatives for the Handicapped*

The Employment Initiatives for the Handicapped program enables recipients of GAIN for the Handicapped to work at community worksites. The program is offered under the *GAIN Act* (section 2) and GAIN Regulations (section 15.1).

Through work experience individuals not only upgrade their work skills, they also gain valuable social contacts. Single clients may receive up to $50 per month and couples may receive up to $100 to cover program-related expenses, however, participation in the program must not exceed 12 months in a 36 month period.

In 1988/89, 696 people participated in the Employment Initiatives for the Handicapped program. Total expenditures were $197,075.

### TABLE 28

### Employment Initiatives for the Handicapped, Expenditures, 1984/85 to 1988/89

| Year | Expenditures |
|---|---|
| 1988/89 | $197,075 |
| 1987/88 | 166,086 |
| 1986/87 | 189,358 |
| 1985/86 | 340,370 |
| 1984/85 | 243,108 |

## *Self-Help Skills*

The Self-Help Skills Program provides a range of personal care, social integration and pre-vocational training for mentally handicapped persons. The program is offered under the *GAIN Act* (section 2).

The objective of the program is to help individuals with mental handicaps function in the community with as much independence as possible.

This objective is achieved through individually focussed services which are purchased on contract from nonprofit societies, private companies or individuals and community colleges. Although assistance offered varies according to the needs of the client, all are designed to train and support mentally handicapped adults as they develop their personal and social skills, and all clients are encouraged to progress towards more demanding or challenging activities as they are able.

The number of individuals participating in the Self-Help Skills Program declined in the 1988/89 fiscal year. This is due, at least in part, to an increase in the number of other training and support options such as the Supported Work Placements Program.

The program served 1,736 clients in 1988/89. Total expenditures were $10,045,136.

### Table 29

### Self-Help Skills Program, Expenditures, Hours and Numbers Served, 1984/85 to 1988/89

| Year | Expenditures | Hours of Service | Clients Served |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1988/89 | $10,045,136 | — | 1,736 |
| 1987/88 | 6,882,532 | 809,710 | 2,000 |
| 1986/87 | 5,020,522 | 661,000 | 1,500 |
| 1985/86 | 4,346,628 | 570,000 | 1,400 |
| 1984/85 | 3,673,609 | 305,471 | 1,100 |
| 1984/83 | 2,637,168 | 219,764 | 880 |

***Achievement Centres***

The Achievement Centres program is offered through authority of the *GAIN Act* (section 2) and GAIN Regulations (section 18). Its objectives are to improve the personal, social or work-related skills of mentally handicapped adults.

Under the program, achievement centres are allocated an approved number of participant hours, and are paid a subsidy based on the number of approved hours. In 1988/89 the subsidy was $1.32 per participant hour.

A transportation allowance is also available to eligible clients, to offset the cost of attending achievement centres.

In 1988/89, $6,807,504 was spent through the Achievement Centres Program.

***Supported Work Placements***

Supported Work Placements provide a combination of work experience with on-site supervision and support for adults with mental handicaps.

The program, introduced in the last fiscal year, is offered under the authority of the *GAIN Act* (section 2). Its objective is to assist adults with mental handicaps who are job ready, require minimal support and who will be able to work without additional support within 36 months, become integrated into the work force.

Services provided through the program go beyond those extended in achievement centres and the Self-Help Skills Program. Targeted to the individual, the employer or the community, services may include job training, monitoring and marketing. Clients may receive assistance on a one-to-one basis, in groups, and in a number of different work settings.

In 1988/89 484 clients took part in the program. Expenditures totalled $1,636,067.

## Professional Support Services

The Professional Support Services Program provides support and training to anyone directly involved with providing community living for people with mental handicaps: contracted service providers, parents, persons with mental handicaps and ministry staff.

The program is offered under section 2 of the *GAIN Act*. Its primary objective is to assist in the provision of residential and training and support programs for adults with mental handicaps living in the community.

Services available include planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating programs and services directly related to community living, as well as training opportunities for service providers.

They are purchased on contract from individual professionals, nonprofit societies, private businesses and community colleges.

Program expenditures for 1988/89 equalled $2,260,034.

# COMMUNITY PROJECTS FUNDING

The Community Projects Funding Program provides funding for nonprofit societies to assist them in offering community-based services to persons in need or who are likely to be in need.

The services eligible for funding through the program include those which complement and support services offered under statute by the ministry. They include family service projects, crisis centres, youth projects, services to low income groups, services to the handicapped and volunteer bureaus.

In 1988/89 five new projects were funded, and eight projects closed or did not reapply for funds. A total of 153 community projects were funded through the program, at a cost of $5,044,630.

***Family Service Projects:*** Societies offer assistance to families in need by providing counselling, programs on parenting, and support and training to self-help groups.

***Crisis Centres:*** Societies operate crisis centres to provide information and counselling as well as crisis intervention services. Most of the services are provided by trained volunteers.

***Youth Projects:*** Youth projects offer activities for young people to enable them to participate in their communities in a positive and responsible way. Programs vary according to the needs of the youths served.

***Low Income Groups:*** Societies offer help to low income families and individuals in their communities. Services include information exchanges, organizational assistance for self-help groups, counselling and practical assistance in such areas as accommodation and moving, money management and effective use of community resources.

***Services to the Handicapped:*** Societies serving disabled persons provide opportunities and help to the handicapped through a variety of programs.

***Volunteer Services:*** Funding is made available to volunteer bureaus to assist them in coordinating the efforts of local volunteers.

## TABLE 30
## Community Projects Funding for 1988/89

| Location and Agency | Type of Service | 1988/89 Amount |
|---|---|---|
| ABBOTSFORD | | $ |
| Matsqui-Abbotsford Community Services Society | Volunteer Services<br>Family Service Project | 90,217 |
| AGASSIZ | | |
| Agassiz-Harrison Community Services Society | Volunteer Services | 21,615 |
| ARMSTRONG | | |
| Armstrong-Spallumcheen Community Service Centre Association: | | |
| Armstrong Community Service Centre | Volunteer Services | 14,856 |
| Family Centre | Family Service Project | 9,457 |
| Okanagan-Shuswap Communities Against Sexual Abuse | Family Service Project | 24,254 |
| BURNABY | | |
| Big Sisters of B.C. — Lower Mainland | Youth Project | 16,327 |
| Burnaby Family Life Institute | Family Service Project | 16,218 |
| Canadian Society for Information Children | Family Service Project | 13,212 |
| Citizen's Development Fund: | | |
| Stride Avenue Community Youth Worker | Family Service Project | |
| Project Backdoor | Youth Project | 100,734 |
| Life Line Society | Family Service Project | 57,390 |
| CASTLEGAR | | |
| Castlegar and District Community Service Centre Society | Family Service Project<br>Youth Project | 17,607 |
| CHILLIWACK | | |
| Chilliwack Community Services Crisis Centre | Volunteer Services<br>Family Service Project | 78,150 |
| COQUITLAM | | |
| Coquitlam SHARE Society | Low Income Groups | 58,500 |
| Greater Coquitlam Volunteer Bureau | Volunteer Services | 17,398 |
| COMOX | | |
| Comox Valley Family Life Association | Youth Project | 27,656 |
| COWICHAN LAKE | | |
| Cowichan Lake Community Services Society | Youth Project | 22,900 |

## TABLE 30
## Community Projects Funding for 1988/89 — *Continued*

| Location and Agency | Type of Service | 1988/89 Amount |
|---|---|---|
| CRESCENT BEACH | | |
| Crescent Beach Community Services | Family Service Project | 15,518 |
| CRESTON | | |
| Creston Citizen Advocacy Society | Services to the Handicapped | 13,975 |
| DAWSON CREEK | | |
| Nawican Friendship Centre | Youth Project | 30,199 |
| DELTA | | |
| Desltassist Society Volunteer Services | Family Service Project | 80,857 |
| DUNCAN | | |
| Community Options Society | Family Service Project | 25,770 |
| Cowichan Family Life Association | Family Service Project | 24,756 |
| Cowichan Valley Volunteer Society | Volunteer Services | 23,440 |
| FALKLAND | | |
| Falkland and District Community Association | Youth Project | 17,959 |
| FORT NELSON | | |
| Fort Nelson Liard Native Friendship Society | Youth Project | 17,777 |
| FORT ST. JOHN | | |
| North Peace Community Resources Society | Volunteer Services | 30,541 |
| Fort St. John Friendship Society | Youth Project | 22,983 |
| GOLDEN | | |
| Golden Community Resources Society | Volunteer Services | 3,824 |
| HAZELTON | | |
| Gitskan Wet'Su Wet'En Education Society | Youth Project | 29,998 |
| HOPE | | |
| Hope Community Services Society | Volunteer Services | 15,123 |
| HOUSTON | | |
| Houston Health Care Services Society | Family Service Project | 21,421 |
| KAMLOOPS | | |
| Boys and Girls Club of Kamloops | Youth Project | 41,220 |
| KELOWNA | | |
| Central Registry of Community Resources and Crisis Referral Society | Volunteer Services<br>Crisis Centre | 56,540 |

## TABLE 30
## Community Projects Funding for 1988/89 — *Continued*

| Location and Agency | Type of Service | 1988/89 Amount |
|---|---|---|
| KITIMAT | | |
| Kitimat and Community Services Society | Volunteer Services | 17,814 |
| LANGLEY | | |
| Langley Family Services Association | Family Service Project | 39,117 |
| MACKENZIE | | |
| Mackenzie Counselling Services Society | Multi-Service Agency | 17,805 |
| MAPLE RIDGE | | |
| Maple Ridge Family Education Centre: | | |
| Family Education Centre | Family Service Project | 32,404 |
| Pregnant and Parenting Teens Project | Family Service Project | 19,594 |
| Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows Community Services Council: | | |
| Family Resource Centre | Family Service Project | 57,000 |
| Volunteer Services | Volunteer Services | 17,400 |
| Youth Activity Centre | Youth Project | 18,000 |
| MISSION | | |
| Mission Community Services Society | Family Service Project<br>Volunteer Services | 25,909 |
| NAKUSP | | |
| Nakusp and District Community Services Association | Multi-Service Agency | 10,956 |
| NANAIMO | | |
| Boys and Girls Club of Nanaimo | Youth Project | 29,500 |
| Nanaimo Citizen Advocacy Society | Services to the Handicapped | 23,170 |
| Nanaimo Association for Intervention and Development | Crisis Centre | 23,660 |
| Nanaimo Family Life Association | Family Service Project | 27,762 |
| Nanaimo Volunteer and Information Centre Society | Volunteer Services | 24,320 |
| NELSON | | |
| Nelson Community Services Centre Crisis Centre | Multi-Service Agency | 98,417 |
| NEW WESTMINSTER | | |
| Family Services of Greater Vancouver: | | |
| New Westminster Development Centre | Family Service Project | 12,360 |
| | Youth Project | 45,659 |

## TABLE 30

## Community Projects Funding for 1988/89 — *Continued*

| Location and Agency | Type of Service | 1988/89 Amount |
|---|---|---|
| NEW WESTMINSTER — *Continued* | | |
| Lower Mainland Community Housing Registry Society | Housing Information and Referral Service | 8,240 |
| Fraserside Community Services Society | Low Income Groups | 47,380 |
| Salvation Army | Low Income Groups | 6,231 |
| NORTH VANCOUVER | | |
| Capilano Community Services Society | Multi-Service Agency | 10,146 |
| North Shore Association for Physically Handicapped | Youth Project | 17,510 |
| North Shore Family Services Society | Family Service Project | 59,568 |
| North Shore Neighborhood House | Family Service Project | 54,244 |
| Queen Mary Community School | Youth Project | 6,819 |
| PARKSVILLE | | |
| District 69 Society of Organized Services: | | |
| Family Guidance Counselling | Family Service Project | 15,262 |
| Sexual Abuse Counselling Program | Family Service Project | 15,000 |
| PENTICTON | | |
| Penticton and District Community Resources Society: | | |
| Community Services Office | Information Referral and Volunteer Services | 30,353 |
| Third Place Family Centre | Family Service Project | 47,019 |
| PORT ALBERNI | | |
| Alberni Valley Citizen Advocacy Society | Services to the Handicapped | 22,892 |
| Port Alberni Family Guidance Association: | | |
| Family Guidance | Family Service Project | 17,131 |
| Youth Worker | Youth Project | 20,827 |
| Port Alberni and Area Volunteer Society | Volunteer Services | 24,815 |
| PORT COQUITLAM | | |
| Port Coquitlam Area Women's Centre Society: | | |
| Women's Centre | Family Service Project | 12,655 |
| Support Group for Young Mothers | Family Service Project | 6,174 |

## TABLE 30
## Community Projects Funding for 1988/89 — *Continued*

| Location and Agency | Type of Service | 1988/89 Amount |
|---|---|---|
| PROVINCE WIDE | | |
| B.C. Association of Volunteer Centres | Volunteer Services | 3,000 |
| B.C. Parents in Crisis Society | Family Service Project | 98,563 |
| Canadian National Institute for the Blind | Services to the Handicapped | 120,000 |
| Canadian Paraplegic Association | Services to the Handicapped | 256,557 |
| Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association, B.C. Division | Services to the Handicapped | 17,210 |
| Information Services Vancouver: | | |
| Information Day Care | Information and Referral Service | 11,948 |
| Pacific Association for Autistic Citizens: | | |
| Life Plan Services | Services to the Handicapped | 43,779 |
| QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS | | |
| Queen Charlotte Islands Health Care Society | Youth Project | |
| RICHMOND | | |
| CHIMO Personal Distress Intervention Services in Richmond | Crisis Centre | 65,051 |
| Family Services of Greater Vancouver, Richmond Branch | Family Service Project | 13,881 |
| Richmond Family Place Society: | | |
| Single Mother's Housing Network | Family Service Project | 15,306 |
| Playroom Supervisor | Family Service Project | 21,702 |
| Richmond Volunteer Centre Society | Volunteer Services | 3,286 |
| Richmond Youth Services Agency | Youth Services | 35,706 |
| SALMON ARM | | |
| Shuswap Youth Centre Association | Youth Project | 19,865 |
| SALTSPRING ISLAND | | |
| Saltspring Island Community Society | Family Service Project | 39,434 |
| SECHELT | | |
| Sunshine Coast Community Services Society: | | |
| Volunteer Action Centre | Volunteer Services | 38,946 |
| Parent-Tot Drop-In | Family Service Project | 10,300 |
| SMITHERS | | |
| Smithers Community Services Association: | | |
| Mothers Time Off | Family Service Project | 31,488 |
| Youth Centre | Youth Project | 55,920 |
| Volunteer Bureau | Volunteer Services | 12,232 |

## TABLE 30
## Community Projects Funding for 1988/89 — *Continued*

| Location and Agency | Type of Service | 1988/89 Amount |
|---|---|---|
| SURREY | | |
| Surrey Community Services Society: | | |
| Guildford Family Program | Family Service Project | 34,503 |
| Mayfair Family Program | Family Service Project | 34,357 |
| Family Development Program | Family Service Project | 42,402 |
| Volunteer Bureau | Volunteer Services | 21,282 |
| YM-YWCA of Surrey | Youth Project | 39,678 |
| VANCOUVER | | |
| Association of Neighborhood Houses: | | |
| People Place | Multi Services | 28,795 |
| Kitsilano Neighborhood House | Family Service Project | 5,008 |
| Mount Pleasant Neighborhood House | Family Service Project | 32,539 |
| South Vancouver Neighborhood House | Family Service Project | 45,289 |
| South Vancouver, Outreach Services for Native Indians | Youth Project | 29,471 |
| Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver | Youth Project | 38,549 |
| Big Sisters of B.C. Lower Mainland | Youth Project | 25,953 |
| Canadian Red Cross Society | Family Service Project | 27,604 |
| Catholic Family Services | Family Service Project | 67,903 |
| Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Centre of Greater Vancouver | Crisis Centre | 30,285 |
| Douglas Park Community Centre Association | Services to the Handicapped | 4,586 |
| Dunbar Community Association | Youth Project | 9,078 |
| East Side Family Place Society | Family Service Project | 9,000 |
| Family Services of Greater Vancouver | Youth Project | 48,696 |
| Franklin Community School Association | Youth Project | 20,600 |
| Information Services Vancouver Society Service | Information and Referral | 37,313 |
| Indian Homemaker's Association of B.C. | Family Service Project | 64,408 |
| John Howard Society | Family Service Project | 72,178 |
| Kiwassa Neighborhood Services Association | Services to the Handicapped | 32,921 |
| Living is for Everyone Society | Family Service Project | 7,051 |
| Little Mountain Neighborhood House Society | Family Service Project | 8,023 |
| Marpole/Oakridge Area Council Society | Family Service Project | 20,904 |

## TABLE 30
## Community Projects Funding for 1988/89 — *Continued*

| Location and Agency | Type of Service | 1988/89 Amount |
|---|---|---|
| Mount Pleasant Family Centre Society | Family Service Project | 73,150 |
| Multilingual Orientation Services Association for Immigrant Communities | Multi-Service Agency | 125,430 |
| Pacific Association for Autistic Citizens: | | |
| Autism Support Services Project | Services to the Handicapped | 64,362 |
| Ray-Cam Cooperative Association | Youth Project | 21,510 |
| Riley Park Community Association | Family Service Project | 11,585 |
| St. James Social Services Society | Multi-Service Agency | 167,000 |
| Skeena Terrace Tenants Association | Family Service Project | 15,965 |
| United Native Nations — Local 108 | Streetworker Project | 16,777 |
| Vancouver Life Skills Society | Family Service Project | 29,445 |
| Volunteer Grandparents Society of B.C. | Family Service Project | 57,225 |
| Vancouver Volunteer Society | Volunteer Services | 48,925 |
| West Side Family Place Society | Family Service Project | 18,473 |
| Western Institute for the Deaf | Services to the Handicapped | 30,000 |
| YWCA of Vancouver | Family Service Project | 30,900 |
| VICTORIA AND AREA | | |
| Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Greater Victoria | Youth Project | 9,561 |
| Esquimalt Neighborhood House Society | Family Service Project | 30,878 |
| Garth Homer Society for the Handicapped | Services to the Handicapped Volunteer Services | 29,890 |
| Greater Victoria Citizen Advocacy Society | Services to the Handicapped | 35,667 |
| Greater Victoria Volunteer Society | Volunteer Services | 31,741 |
| James Bay Health and Community Services Society | Family Service Project | 35,000 |
| Kiwanis Club of Victoria | Youth Project | 20,187 |
| Oak Bay Volunteer Society | Volunteer Services | 23,709 |
| Peninsula Community Association: | | |
| Volunteer Services | Volunteer Services | 25,630 |
| Community Counselling Service | Family Service Project | 32,680 |
| Salvation Army | Family Service Project | 15,527 |
| Victoria Child Sexual Abuse Society | Family Service Project | 20,350 |
| Victoria Single Parent Resource Centre Society | Family Service Project | 36,242 |
| YM-YWCA of Victoria | Youth Project | 98,037 |

## TABLE 30

## Community Projects Funding for 1988/89 — *Continued*

| Location and Agency | Type of Service | 1988/89 Amount |
|---|---|---|
| WEST VANCOUVER | | |
| North Shore Counselling Centre Society | Volunteer Services | 17,984 |
| North Shore Cooperative Projects | Services to the Handicapped | 18,731 |
| Society for Low Income and Handicapped | Lower Income Groups | |
| WHITE ROCK | | |
| Peace Arch Community Services Society | Volunteer Services | 24,883 |
| Crescent Beach Community Services | Youth Project | 15,518 |

# SECTION 7

# *Income Assistance*

## INCOME ASSISTANCE

### Highlights of 1988/89

- Family Maintenance services became available throughout the province to help eligible clients obtain the maintenance or child support payments to which they are entitled.

- The Opportunities to Independence programs are working. Due in part to both the improving provincial economy and the effectiveness of the programs, the number of persons receiving income assistance has dropped by almost 20 percent over the past two years.

  In 1988/89, income assistance caseloads decreased 4.2 per cent. At March 31, 1989, the total caseload (including the 60 to 64 age group and Children In Home of Relative cases) was 115,125, down from 119,979 at March 31, 1988.

- Transitional assistance was made available. Single parents now leaving income assistance are now eligible to receive a transportation allowance, the day care surcharge, and continued medical and dental coverage for up to one year.

# INTRODUCTION TO INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The Income Assistance programs provide a basic income for British Columbians in need and assistance in helping them to become independent and self-supporting. These services are delivered under the statutory authority of the *Guaranteed Available Income for Need (GAIN) Act*.

The ministry's programs provide assistance in the following areas: **Income Assistance; Health Services;** the **Family Maintenance Program;** the **Opportunities to Independence Programs;** and the **Ministry Investigators Program.**

The programs are administered through the ministry's district offices. Eligibility for benefits is based on an objective measurement of the applicant's needs and financial circumstances. If an applicant is not satisfied with the evaluation, an appeal can be made. Appeal kits are available to assist with the appeal process.

In the 1988/89 fiscal year 1,183 appeals were submitted. These included 943 administrative reviews and 240 tribunals.

**TABLE 31**

**Appeals, April 1988 to March 1989**

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of Administrative Reviews | 943 |
| Number of Tribunals | 240 |
| Total Number of Appeals | 1,183 |
| Number of Administrative Reviews in Favor of Ministry | 627 |
| Number of Administrative Reviews in Favor of Appellant | 316 |
| Number of Tribunal Decisions in Favor of Ministry | 86 |
| Number of Tribunal Decisions in Favor of Appellant | 154 |

## The Environment

The number of single parent families receiving income assistance is increasing. These families — the majority of whom are headed by women — are relatively vulnerable when economic conditions are changing rapidly.

Rapid technological change has resulted in fewer entry level jobs and higher education and experience requirements for persons entering the work force. The shift from a resource-based economy to a service-based economy has resulted in lower wages for entry level positions.

# INCOME ASSISTANCE

Income assistance is offered in three areas: Basic GAIN (Guaranteed Available Income for Need), Supplementary GAIN, and Other services and Benefits.

## Basic GAIN

Basic GAIN helps eligible recipients to meet the cost of fundamental living expenses. GAIN consists of a monthly shelter allowance determined by the family's actual shelter and utility costs up to a maximum, and a monthly support allowance. Benefit levels are based on family size. Assistance is available for low income families in need of supplementary income as well as family situations where one or more recipients is aged 60 or over, and CIHR (children living in the home of relatives), where the relatives receive assistance on behalf of the child.

Basic GAIN is intended as temporary financial help in a time of need. Ministry policies encourage and assist employable clients to seek independence and self-sufficiency. Monthly benefits are available to eligible people aged 19 to 64 years, and to their dependents.

**TABLE 32**

**Basic GAIN, Expenditures, 1984/85 to 1988/89**

| Year | Expenditures |
|---|---|
| 1988/89 | $816,493,923 |
| 1987/88 | 815,957,984 |
| 1986/87 | 821,231,476 |
| 1985/86 | 840,934,411 |
| 1984/85 | 815,379,309 |

## TABLE 33
## Basic GAIN Rates[1] as of March, 1989

| Family Size | Employable | Unemployable |
|---|---|---|
| | $ | $ |
| Single | 430 | 480 |
| 2 persons | 732 | 782 |
| 3 persons | 871 | 921 |
| 4 persons | 973 | 1,023 |
| 5 persons | 1,082 | 1,132 |
| 6 persons | 1,161 | 1,211 |
| 7 persons | 1,255 | 1,305 |
| 8 persons | 1,333 | 1,383 |
| 9 persons | 1,409 | 1,459 |
| 10 persons | 1,487 | 1,537 |
| 11 or more | add up to $70 for each additional person | |

[1] The amount paid for shelter allowance depends upon the actual shelter costs paid by recipients, up to a maximum for the family unit. These rates reflect the maximum amount available to recipients in each category.

## TABLE 34
## Basic GAIN, Monthly Case Activity, 1988/89

| Month | Cases Closed[1] | Cases Opened[2] | Increase/ Decrease | Total Cases |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| April | 11,526 | 10,459 | −1,067 | 112,413 |
| May | 11,096 | 10,846 | − 250 | 112,005 |
| June | 11,143 | 11,718 | + 575 | 112,399 |
| July | 12,843 | 10,325 | −2,518 | 110,016 |
| August | 11,940 | 10,442 | −1,498 | 108,425 |
| September | 11,715 | 9,810 | −1,905 | 106,588 |
| October | 12,448 | 11,172 | −1,276 | 105,239 |
| November | 10,984 | 11,519 | + 535 | 105,725 |
| December | 10,254 | 12,848 | +2,594 | 108,142 |
| January | 9,539 | 12,000 | +2,461 | 110,491 |
| February | 11,548 | 10,682 | − 866 | 109,462 |
| March | 10,989 | 10,258 | − 731 | 108,578 |

[1] Cases Closed: Estimates of those clients who did not receive income assistance in the current month but received income assistance in the previous month.

[2] Cases Opened: Estimates of those clients who received income assistance in the current month but did not receive income assistance in the previous month.

### TABLE 35

### Average Monthly Caseload and Number of Persons Receiving Basic Income Assistance, by Category, 1988/89

| Category | Number of Cases |
|---|---|
| Heads of Family | 47,871 cases |
| Single Persons | 61,237 cases |
| Total | 109,108 cases |
| Dependants | 92,746 persons |
| Average Monthly Total | 201,854 persons |

## Supplementary GAIN

Supplementary GAIN provides assistance under three plans: GAIN for the Handicapped, GAIN for Seniors (not receiving Old Age Security) and GAIN for Mixed Families with Old Age Security Component.

As of March 31, 1989, there were 17,878 persons receiving Supplementary GAIN. Of these, 102 recipients and their dependents were involved in more than one plan.

### *GAIN for the Handicapped*

GAIN for the Handicapped benefits are paid to applicants between the ages of 18 and 64 who meet the medical and social definition of a handicapped person (as defined in the GAIN Regulations). The condition must be permanent and debilitating, and the individual must be unable to achieve financial independence through employment. In addition, the applicant must require either extensive assistance or supervision, or face unusual ongoing costs as a result of their medical condition.

In recognition of added expenses faced by the handicapped, GAIN for Handicapped benefits are higher than those provided under basic income assistance. As well, medical, dental and pharmacy services are provided, and a yearly bus pass is available for a nominal fee ($36 in 1988/89).

In order to receive GAIN for Handicapped benefits, an individual must be designated as handicapped. To receive the designation, an applicant must have a medical assessment completed by a doctor, and a social assessment completed by a ministry social worker. The assessments are reviewed by the ministry's Health Services section in Victoria. Once an individual has been designated as handicapped the status is permanent.

Benefits will be suspended if the client becomes financially independent, however, medical benefits will continue to be supplied if the individual becomes independent through employment.

As of March 1989 there were 16,444 recipients receiving monthly benefits.

## TABLE 36
## Number of Persons Receiving GAIN for Handicapped, March 1985 to 1989

| Year | Number of Persons |
|---|---|
| 1989 | 16,444 |
| 1988 | 16,495 |
| 1987 | 16,192 |
| 1986 | 16,070 |
| 1985 | 16,281 |

***GAIN for Seniors (not receiving Old Age Security)***

This plan provides benefits to families where at least one individual is over 65 years of age and does not qualify for federal Old Age Security benefits. In March, 1989, there were 2,044 recipients.

***GAIN for Mixed Families with Old Age Security Component***

This plan covers families that qualify for Income Assistance, and that have at least one member over 65 years of age receiving Old Age Security benefits. In March, 1989, there were 292 recipients.

*Note:* For more information on assistance available to seniors, see section 8 "Services to Seniors".

## Table 37
## Number of Persons Receiving Supplementary GAIN by Family Type, as of March 31, 1989

| | RECIPIENTS | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Family Type | GAIN For The Handicapped | Age 65+ (Not Receiving OAS) | Families With An OAS Component | Total Number of Recipients | Total Number of Cases |
| Single Men | 7,243 | 187 | — | 7,430 | 7,430 |
| Single Women | 6,127 | 704 | — | 6,831 | 6,831 |
| Couples | 1,724 | 1,077 | 229 | 3,030 | 2,188 |
| Two Parent | 619 | 61 | 42 | 722 | 662 |
| One Parent | 731 | 15 | 21 | 767 | 767 |
| Total | 16,444 | 2,044 | 292 | 18,780 | 17,878 |

## TABLE 38

## Total GAIN Caseload by Family Type and Dependent Children, March 1989

| | Single Men | Single Women | Couples | Two-Parent | One-Parent | Total Cases | Total Dependent Children |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Income Assistance | | | | | | | |
| CIHR | 1,127 | 1,091 | — | — | — | 2,218 | — |
| Age 60 to 64 | 1,633 | 1,672 | 769 | 171 | 84 | 4,329 | 388 |
| Basic | 42,101 | 19,590 | 3,163 | 8,912 | 34,812 | 108,578 | 78,563 |
| Total Income Assistance | 44,861 | 22,353 | 3,932 | 9,083 | 34,896 | 115,125 | 78,951 |
| Supplementary[1] GAIN for Handicapped | 7,243 | 6,127 | 1,307 | 565 | 731 | 15,973 | 1,966 |
| Age 65+ (Not receiving Old Age Security) | 187 | 704 | 648 | 54 | 15 | 1,608 | 95 |
| Families with an OAS Component | — | — | 133 | 41 | 21 | 195 | 100 |
| Mixed Plans[1] | — | — | 100 | 2 | — | 102 | 2 |
| Total Supplementary | 7,430 | 6,831 | 2,188 | 662 | 767 | 17,878 | 2,163 |
| Total GAIN Cases | 52,291 | 29,184 | 6,120 | 9,745 | 35,663 | 133,003 | 81,114 |

[1] Mixed Plans include families containing two different plans;
GAIN for the Handicapped and Age 65+ (Not receiving OAS): 5 cases
GAIN for the Handicapped and Families with an OAS component: 73 cases
Age 65+ (Not receiving OAS) and Families with an OAS component: 24 cases
Mixed Plans Total: 102 cases.

## TABLE 39
## Number of Cases of GAIN Income Assistance, by Category and Region, March 1989

| Region | Single Men | Single Women | One-Parent | Two-Parent | Couples | Child With Relatives | Total Cases | Dependent Children | Dependent Spouses | Total Recipients |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | 7,101 | 3,610 | 4,112 | 1,194 | 449 | 248 | 16,714 | 9,386 | 1,643 | 27,743 |
| B | 11,196 | 3,793 | 2,924 | 843 | 580 | 151 | 19,487 | 6,387 | 1,423 | 27,297 |
| C | 5,218 | 2,758 | 4,440 | 987 | 426 | 251 | 14,080 | 9,485 | 1,413 | 24,978 |
| D | 4,500 | 2,689 | 5,711 | 1,341 | 518 | 265 | 15,024 | 12,688 | 1,859 | 29,571 |
| F | 2,596 | 1,497 | 3,358 | 886 | 399 | 179 | 8,915 | 7,695 | 1,285 | 17,895 |
| G | 2,358 | 1,358 | 2,933 | 835 | 374 | 206 | 8,064 | 6,932 | 1,209 | 16,205 |
| H | 2,271 | 1,070 | 2,624 | 658 | 289 | 203 | 7,115 | 6,206 | 947 | 14,268 |
| J | 1,646 | 772 | 1,636 | 436 | 156 | 199 | 4,845 | 3,942 | 592 | 9,379 |
| K | 3,059 | 1,730 | 3,490 | 1,009 | 407 | 252 | 9,947 | 8,307 | 1,416 | 19,670 |
| L | 3,789 | 1,985 | 3,668 | 894 | 334 | 264 | 10,934 | 7,923 | 1,228 | 20,085 |
| Total | 43,734 | 21,262 | 34,896 | 9,083 | 3,932 | 2,218 | 115,125 | 78,951 | 13,015 | 207,091 |

## TABLE 40

## Total GAIN Income Assistance Recipients, Average Number of Persons Per Month (Including Dependents), 1984/85 to 1988/89

| Year | Number of Persons |
|---|---|
| 1988/89 | 209,576 |
| 1987/88 | 215,830 |
| 1986/87 | 224,515 |
| 1985/86 | 234,741 |
| 1984/85 | 232,220 |

## TABLE 41

## Total GAIN Caseload and Number of Recipients, by Region, for March 1989

| Region | Income Assistance Cases | Income Assistance Recipients | Supplementary Cases | Supplementary Recipients | Total GAIN Cases | Total GAIN Recipients |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | 16,714 | 27,743 | 3,160 | 3,986 | 19,874 | 31,729 |
| B | 19,487 | 27,297 | 3,333 | 3,975 | 22,820 | 31,272 |
| C | 14,080 | 24,978 | 2,220 | 2,823 | 16,300 | 27,801 |
| D | 5,024 | 29,571 | 2,127 | 2,803 | 17,151 | 32,374 |
| F | 8,915 | 17,895 | 1,679 | 2,203 | 10,594 | 20,098 |
| G | 8,064 | 16,205 | 1,226 | 1,689 | 9,290 | 17,894 |
| H | 7,115 | 14,268 | 739 | 1,047 | 7,854 | 15,315 |
| J | 4,845 | 9,379 | 459 | 653 | 5,304 | 10,032 |
| K | 9,947 | 19,670 | 1,139 | 1,498 | 11,086 | 21,168 |
| L | 10,934 | 20,085 | 1,796 | 2,214 | 12,730 | 22,299 |
| Total | 115,125 | 207,091 | 17,878 | 22,891 | 133,003 | 229,982 |

### TABLE 42

### Employability Status of Persons Receiving GAIN, by Region, for March 1989

| Region | Employable | Unemployable |
|---|---|---|
| A | 12,370 | 4,344 |
| B | 13,819 | 5,668 |
| C | 10,050 | 4,030 |
| D | 10,874 | 4,150 |
| F | 6,743 | 2,172 |
| G | 5,911 | 2,153 |
| H | 5,171 | 1,944 |
| J | 3,707 | 1,138 |
| K | 7,484 | 2,463 |
| L | 7,431 | 3,503 |
| Total | 83,560 | 31,565 |

## Other Services and Benefits

Income assistance recipients may qualify for a number of other benefits under the provisions of GAIN legislation in the form of allowances, discretionary grants and residential resources.

### *Allowances and Grants*

When a recipient is without assets, income or other resources to meet an emergency, the ministry may provide additional assistance in the form of a Crisis Grant. Expenditures for 1988/89 Crisis Grants were $3,945,164.

### TABLE 43

### Crisis Grants, Expenditures, 1984/85 to 1988/89

| Year | Expenditures |
|---|---|
| 1988/89 | $3,945,164 |
| 1987/88 | 4,217,885 |
| 1986/87 | 3,530,465 |
| 1985/86 | 3,368,018 |
| 1984/85 | 2,774,305 |

An annual School Start-up Allowance is issued to families with dependent school children to help with the cost of starting the school year. In 1988/89, $31 was provided for children aged 6 to 11, and $47 was allotted for children 12 and over. Expenditures totalled $1,683,568.

### TABLE 44
### School Start-Up Allowance, Expenditures, 1984/85 to 1988/89

| Year | Expenditures |
|---|---|
| 1988/89 | $1,683,568 |
| 1987/88 | 1,736,394 |
| 1986/87 | 1,726,108 |
| 1985/86 | 1,630,895 |
| 1984/85 | 1,595,783 |

Camp Fees are available for children of eligible income assistance recipients and children with mental and/or physical disabilities. Camp Fees may also be provided for handicapped adults or children in residential care or who are receiving GAIN for the Handicapped benefits, to enable them to attend specialized camps. In 1988/89, $444,034 was provided in Camp Fees.

### TABLE 45
### Camp Fees, Expenditures, 1984/85 to 1988/89

| Year | Expenditures |
|---|---|
| 1988/89 | $444,034 |
| 1987/88 | 436,994 |
| 1986/87 | 364,857 |
| 1985/86 | 350,304 |
| 1984/85 | 303,078 |

An annual Christmas Supplementary Allowance is issued to eligible income assistance recipients. In 1988/89, $28 was provided for single clients, and $70 was provided for clients with one or more dependents. Total expenditures were $5,494,027.

### TABLE 46

### Christmas Supplementary Allowance, Expenditures, 1984/85 to 1988/89

| Year | Expenditures |
|---|---|
| 1988/89 | $5,494,027 |
| 1987/88 | 5,699,877 |
| 1986/87[1] | 5,989,020 |
| 1985/86 | 4,506,261 |
| 1984/85 | 4,121,296 |

[1] Includes an increase in the Christmas Allowance.

A Diet Allowance may be provided, to a maximum of $20 per month, to a recipient who must meet extraordinary dietary requirements. In 1988/89, $1,622,575 was spent through the Diet Allowance.

### TABLE 47

### Diet Allowance, Expenditures, 1984/85 to 1988/89

| Year | Expenditures |
|---|---|
| 1988/89 | $1,622,575 |
| 1987/88 | 1,691,463 |
| 1986/87 | 1,635,810 |
| 1985/86 | 1,490,704 |
| 1984/85 | 1,270,742 |

A Natal Allowance of up to $25 per month may be granted to a recipient who is pregnant or who has a child of less than seven months of age. In the case of a multiple pregnancy or birth, the allowance may be increased to up to $40 per month. In 1988/89, $1,216,956 was spent for Natal Allowances.

### TABLE 48

### Natal Allowance, Expenditures, 1984/85 to 1988/89

| Year | Expenditures |
|---|---|
| 1988/89 | $1,216,956 |
| 1987/88 | 1,209,750 |
| 1986/87 | 1,205,655 |
| 1985/86 | 1,275,385 |
| 1984/85 | 1,236,513 |

A Comforts Allowance (up to $60 monthly) is allotted to help meet the personal and recreational expenses of eligible persons (with assets of less than $500) who reside in a subsidized care or personal care facility — provided the facility's operating budget does not cover these costs. In 1988/89, an average of 3,968 clients received benefits each month, for a total expenditure of $3,350,848.

### TABLE 49

### Comforts Allowance, Expenditures and Number of Recipients, 1984/85 to 1988/89

| Year | Recipients[1] | Expenditures |
|---|---|---|
| 1988/89 | 3,772 | $3,350,848 |
| 1987/88 | 3,968 | 2,089,357 |
| 1986/87 | 3,671 | 2,832,167 |
| 1985/86 | 3,564 | 2,564,075 |
| 1984/85 | 3,344 | 2,423,093 |

[1] These figures do not include recipients paid through an institutional budget.

When a deceased person has no estate, relatives or other persons able to assume responsibility, the ministry will pay burial or cremation costs. In 1988/89, the ministry assisted with 593 funerals, for a total of $870,109.

**TABLE 50**

**Burial of Indigents, Expenditures and Number of Burials, 1984/85 to 1988/89**

| Year | Number | Expenditures |
|---|---|---|
| 1988/89 | 593 | $870,109 |
| 1987/88 | 596 | 815,765 |
| 1986/87 | 568 | 720,187 |
| 1985/86 | 600 | 729,900 |
| 1984/85 | 598 | 712,493 |

In special circumstances, where such a move would improve opportunities for employment, the ministry will provide a Repatriation Grant to assist clients to relocate to their home province or country. In 1988/89, the ministry provided $73,884 in Repatriation Grants.

**TABLE 51**

**Repatriation Grants, Expenditures, 1984/85 to 1988/89**

| Year | Expenditures |
|---|---|
| 1988/89 | $ 73,884 |
| 1987/88 | 90,754 |
| 1986/87 | 88,433 |
| 1985/86 | 153,242 |
| 1984/85 | 99,112 |

A monthly Guide Dog Allowance of $35 may be provided to assist in the maintenance of a registered guide dog used by a person receiving income assistance. Benefits allotted under this plan are included in the total basic income assistance expenditures for 1988/89.

### *Adult Residential Resources*

Adult residential resources and related programs include transition houses and emergency shelters, hostels for transient persons, user fees for long term care facilities and shared alcohol drug programs.

*Transition Houses and Emergency Shelters*

The ministry provides funding for registered non-profit societies to develop and operate emergency shelters and transition houses, for persons in need. Emergency shelters and transition houses offer room and board in a safe and supportive environment for women and children in a crisis situation. Expenditures in 1988/89 were $4,809,100.

### TABLE 52
### Emergency Shelters (Including Transition Houses), Expenditures and Service, 1984/85 to 1988/89

| Year | Number of Facilities | Safe Homes | Total Capacity | Ave. Capacity Per Shelter | Ave. Rate Per Diem | Expenditures |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1988/89 | 42 | 11 | 438 | 10.4 | $31.86 | $4,809,100 |
| 1987/88 | 39 | 8 | 378 | 9.7 | 33.31 | 4,277,744 |
| 1986/87 | 39 | 8 | 366 | 9.9 | 30.93 | 3,584,022 |
| 1985/86 | 31 | 8 | 278 | 9.0 | 31.09 | 2,986,551 |
| 1984/85 | 30 | 10 | 254 | 8.7 | 27.39 | 3,114,852 |

*Hostels for Transients*

Services are contracted in hostels to provide short term accommodation for transient single persons and couples without children. Expenditures for 1988/89 were $2,371,734.

### TABLE 53
### Hostels for Transients, Expenditures and Service, 1984/85 to 1988/89

| Year | Number of Facilities | Total Capacity[1] | Ave. Capacity Per Shelter[1] | Ave. Rate Per Diem[1] | Expenditures |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1988/89 | 24 | 558 | 23 | $21.41 | $2,317,734 |
| 1987/88 | 25 | 598 | 26 | 21.21 | 2,514,694 |
| 1986/87 | 23 | 592 | 26 | 18.29 | 2,518,466 |
| 1985/86 | 24 | 621 | 26 | 18.03 | 2,466,576 |
| 1984/85 | 24 | 564 | 24 | 18.56 | 2,314,070 |

[1] Figures refer to adult capacity and per diem rates only.

### *User Fees/Long Term Care*

The ministry will pay the standard user fee (set by the Ministry of Health) for persons residing in Long Term Care facilities who are unable to meet the cost themselves. Expenditures in 1988/89 totalled $16,671,409.

### *Shared Alcohol and Drug Programs*

The ministry will also pay the user charge in drug and alcohol facilities (currently $16.30 per day) for eligible persons who could not afford treatment otherwise. Expenditures in 1988/89 were $1,061,816.

**TABLE 54**

**Shared Alcohol and Drug Facilities, Expenditures, 1984/85 to 1988/89**

| Year | Expenditures |
|---|---|
| 1988/89 | $1,061,816 |
| 1987/88 | 1,313,978 |
| 1986/87 | 1,269,208 |
| 1985/86 | 1,208,093 |
| 1984/85 | 1,502,166 |

# HEALTH SERVICES

The objective of the Health Services programs is to provide medical coverage through the Medical Services Plan of British Columbia (MSP) to eligible clients and to assist with the costs of required medical equipment, supplies and services. The program is administered under the statutory authority of the GAIN Regulations (section 29).

The Health Services Section, located in Victoria, is responsible for monitoring policy application and budget. It serves in a consultative capacity to provide field offices with information pertaining to policy interpretation, available health care services and community resources. The section also arranges purchase of major medical equipment and maintains inventory records of purchases.

Health Services program budgets are allocated to each region of the ministry. Field offices are responsible for determining eligibility for services and most expenditures are authorized at the local level.

In 1988/89, expenditures totalled $30,416,872.

**TABLE 55**

**Health Care Services, Expenditures, 1984/85 to 1988/89**

| Year | Expenditures |
|---|---|
| 1988/89 | $30,416,872 |
| 1987/88 | 29,646,934 |
| 1986/87 | 37,480,249 |
| 1985/86 | 36,014,815 |
| 1984/85 | 33,523,366[1] |

[1] Effective July 1, 1984, responsibility for delivery of health services was decentralized. Health Services program budgets were allocated to each region of the ministry.

## Medical Coverage

MSP coverage is available for unemployable persons, children-in-care, GAIN for the Handicapped recipients, single parents of dependent children, persons over 65 who were eligible for assistance before turning 65 and recipients of Child in Home of Relative (CIHR) benefits, where coverage is not available through the child's natural parents. In 1988/89, MSP was provided for an average of 165,000 individuals per month. Premiums are paid by the Ministry of Health.

## Medical Equipment and Supplies

Necessary supplies and equipment are available for eligible people who do not reside in a Long Term Care facility and who are unable to meet the costs themselves. In certain circumstances assistance may be offered to non-clients with an essential health need. In 1988/89, the ministry purchased or leased beds, commodes, mobility aids, respirators, suction units, wheelchairs and other items for a total expenditure of $4,262,714.

Demand for this program is expected to increase with the downsizing of Glendale and Woodlands. As residents leave the institutions, some will require equipment and supplies to allow them to function in private and group homes.

## Medical Transportation and Accommodation

Funds are available to assist with the costs of travel for non-emergency medical treatment. The program covers local transportation, as well as in- and out-of-province travel, meals, accommodation, escorts, and costs associated with the out-of-province post surgical recovery period. In 1988/89, expenditures totalled $3,910,060.

## Dental Program

Persons who have ministry-sponsored health coverage are eligible for general diagnostic and preventive dental care up to a maximum of $500 per year. People who receive income assistance who do not have ministry-sponsored health coverage may receive emergency dental coverage to provide treatment for relief of pain only. Payment for orthodontic services is available for Children-In-Care. Adult orthodontic services may be covered in certain circumstances. In 1988/89, the Dental Program expenditures totalled $19,681,841.

## Miscellaneous Therapies

The ministry provides extended coverage for essential physiotherapy, massage and chiropractic treatments to eligible GAIN recipients and Children-In-Care. Expenditures in 1988/89 came to $50,597.

## Optical Services

This program assists eligible clients with the costs of lenses, frames and selected optical hardware. In 1988/89, 30,000 requests were processed at a cost of $2,511,660.

## TABLE 56

## Gross Costs of Health Care Services, 1984/85 to 1988/89

| Year | Medical[1] | Drugs[2] | Dental | Optical | Transport | Other[3] | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | $ | $ | $ | $ | $ | $ | $ |
| 1988/89 | — | — | 19,681,841 | 2,511,660 | 3,910,060 | 4,400,615 | 30,504,176 |
| 1987/88 | 34,812 | — | 19,534,925 | 2,539,113 | 3,794,687 | 3,743,397 | 29,646,934 |
| 1986/87 | 9,060,880 | 163,570,064 | 18,905,308 | 2,494,492 | 3,908,339 | 3,111,229 | 201,050,312 |
| 1985/86 | 8,235,595 | 136,499,740 | 19,395,146 | 2,469,225 | 3,432,817 | 2,482,131 | 172,514,555 |
| 1984/85 | 8,254,084 | 118,826,376 | 18,330,957 | 2,318,547 | 2,733,466 | 1,886,312 | 152,349,742 |

[1] As of 1987/88, medical costs no longer include payment for Medical Services Plan premiums or hospital co-insurance charges.

[2] Drug costs reported are those incurred under the Pharmacare Program which was transferred to the Ministry of Health, effective April 1, 1987

[3] These costs include purchase of medical equipment, physiotherapy services, psychology services, speech and occupational therapy and miscellaneous minor services. Responsibility for approval of all such services was delegated to MSSH field offices effective July 1, 1984 in keeping with a decentralized approach to health service program delivery.

# FAMILY MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

The Family Maintenance Program was introduced in the 1988/89 fiscal year to help eligible persons to obtain the maintenance or child support payments they are entitled to from the person who is legally responsible to pay.

The program has three objectives: to ensure family breakdown does not impoverish dependent family members or place an excessive burden on public funds; to relieve single parents of the struggle to obtain financial support for their families; and to assist income assistance recipients to achieve financial independence by obtaining adequate, regularly-paid maintenance.

In British Columbia, almost 40 percent of single parents receive income assistance. The majority of these do not receive regular maintenance or child support payments.

The Family Maintenance Program, which began full operation in March 1989, operates under the authority of the *GAIN Act*. This gives Government the legal right to pursue maintenance payments on behalf of Income Assistance clients.

The 51 family maintenance workers located across the province first work to obtain maintenance for clients by agreement. If an agreement is not reached the case goes to Court and a maintenance order may be issued. The orders are filed for monitoring and enforcement with the Ministry of Attorney General's Family Maintenance Enforcement Program.

The ministry has the authority to pursue any maintenance to which its clients are entitled. In cases where it would not be appropriate to proceed, however, discretion can be used.

## Evaluation

In the first seven months of operation more than 3,000 referrals were made. As of March 1989, 1,059 cases had been assessed; 80 cases with maintenance action were in progress, 390 existing orders were filed for monitoring and enforcement, and action had been deferred for 573 cases.

# OPPORTUNITIES TO INDEPENDENCE PROGRAMS

The Opportunities to Independence Programs are the main vehicle through which the ministry helps income assistance recipients become self-supporting.

The programs combine wage subsidies, funding for education and retraining and employment incentives to help people enter or re-enter the work force.

Opportunities to Independence program budgets are allocated to each region of the ministry. Financial assistance workers and rehabilitation officers in field offices are responsible for determining eligibility, and most expenditures are authorized at the local level.

## The Employment Initiatives Project

Occasionally, project teams are created to develop and monitor new programs. The Employment Initiatives Project is such a team.

The team coordinates the ministry's involvement in both provincial and federal training initiatives, including the federal government's Canadian Job Strategy programs provided under the Canada/BC Agreement on employment and training for income assistance recipients. The EIP team was also responsible for developing the ministry's employment initiative programs, Employment Plus.

Opportunities to Independence programs are divided into two areas: Employment Plus, and Assistance to Employment.

### TABLE 57

### Expenditures, Opportunities to Independence Programs, 1988/89

| | |
|---|---|
| Employment Plus | |
| Employment Opportunities Program | $4,391,105 |
| Community Tourism Employment Program | 3,195,454 |
| Environment Youth Program | 1,981,338 |
| Special Employment Projects | 100,000 |
| Subtotal | 9,667,897 |
| Assistance to Employment | |
| Educational, Vocational and Rehabilitative Training | $2,534,765 |
| Job Action Program | 2,706,547 |
| Work Clothing and Transportation | 2,009,249 |
| Incentive Allowance for Employment Program | 286,968 |
| Day Care Surcharge | 13,037 |
| Work Activity Projects | 315,261 |
| Subtotal | 7,865,827 |
| Total Expenditures for 1988/89 fiscal year | $17,533,724 |

***Employment Plus***

*The Employment Opportunity Program*

The Employment Opportunity Program offers a 50 percent wage subsidy to employers when they hire and train an income assistance recipient. The subsidy consists of a maximum contribution of $3.50/hour per trainee for a maximum of six months.

By encouraging employers to hire ministry clients, the program provides clients with the opportunity to develop their skills and eventually gain full-time employment.

**Julia, a single parent with two children, had been receiving income assistance for three years when she expressed an interest in a sales career. She had some previous experience in the hair care field, so when an opportunity arose with a wholesale distributor of hair care products, it seemed meant to be. The wage subsidy offered through the Employment Opportunity Program allowed the employer to hire Julia and pay her a wage while training her in the business.**

**The incentive worked wonders. Julia is still employed with the company and has set a record for volume sales. She is now enjoying both her new job and her new found financial independence.**

*Community Tourism Employment Program*

Under this program the ministry supplies the wages (up to $7.00/hour for laborer positions and $10.00/hour for supervisory positions) as well as the employer's share of employee benefits (CPP, UIC, WCB and Vacation Pay) for ministry clients hired by non-profit organizations to work on community tourism development projects.

The program has two objectives:

- to provide ministry clients with skills to help them move toward permanent employment and financial independence.
- to provide registered nonprofit organizations with funding to hire workers to carry out community tourism development projects which leave a tourism legacy in the community and which enhance the community's tourism potential.

In 1988/89, groups funded under the Community Tourism Development Program helped produce bicycling routes and maps for the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island areas; restored and refurbished museums, theatres and heritage ships; and created and enhanced public golf courses, parks and ski trails.

The program has proven popular. Organizations are pleased with the ministry screening and referral process, with the work of ministry clients, and with the fact that they are able to initiate long sought after tourism projects in the community.

A total of $3.1 million funded 171 projects which created 641 jobs.

### *Environment Youth Program*

Employment and training opportunities in outdoor enhancement activities are provided for ministry clients between the ages of 17 and 24 under the Environment Youth Program to help them find permanent employment.

This program, managed through a contract with the Outdoor Recreation Foundation of British Columbia, offers six-month positions in such outdoor development projects as trail improvement and salmon enhancement for young income assistance recipients, GAIN for Handicapped Recipients, children-in-care (CIC) and Children in Home of Relative (CIHR).

In January 1988, two Employment Youth Program crews assisted with the oil spill clean-up in the Long Beach/Tofino area. An increased interest in environmental enhancement and protection has resulted in many requests for more projects in the next fiscal year.

$1,981,338 funded projects in 28 communities and created 171 positions.

### *Special Employment Projects*

In 1988/89, the ministry provided funding for 20 regionally-initiated projects in 10 regions. The purpose of the projects was to develop targeted services based on unique client or employment conditions in the region, and to pilot innovative employment strategies for possible broader application in the future.

A total of $100,00 was spent in the 1988/89 fiscal year.

## ***Assistance to Employment***

### *Educational, Vocational and Rehabilitative Training*

The ministry will pay the costs related to educational and vocational training programs to prepare income assistance recipients for employment.

In order to qualify for the program, an applicant must already be receiving GAIN or GAIN for the Handicapped. Further, all other sources of funding must be explored before costs can be provided for educational or vocational training. Clients may participate in ministry-funded training for up to three years.

The objective of the program is to help income assistance recipients become independent by providing an opportunity to participate in educational, vocational or rehabilitative programs.

### *Job Action*

The Job Action programs provide job-ready, employable income assistance recipients with effective job finding skills.

The programs, which run up to five weeks in length, combine classroom learning with actual job searches. Participants learn to assess their skills, obtain job interviews and present their skills effectively in interviews. Participants also receive an allowance of up to $150 for program-related expenses such as transportation, personal grooming and clothing.

In 1988/89:

- A special three-month Job Action program for youth was set up in Vancouver. 96 persons participated.
- A seven-week program for people with special needs was offered in New Westminster.
- A five-week program for Native persons ran in Prince George.

In the 1988/89 fiscal year, a total of $2,706,547 was spent through the Job Action programs. 3,875 clients were served.

### *Work Clothing and Transportation*

The ministry will help income assistance and GAIN for Handicapped clients to explore realistic employment opportunities, and to obtain and keep employment by assisting with the costs of work clothing and transportation.

A work clothing allowance may be provided to a client who has a job interview or confirmed employment.

A transportation allowance may be provided to assist with a local job search, transportation to a confirmed interview or a confirmed job out of the local area. Effective November 1, 1989, a transportation allowance of up to $90 per month, for up to one year, may be provided to clients who become employed.

Expenditures for 1988/89 under the Assistance to Employment Program totalled $2,009,249.

### *Incentive Allowance for Employment*

Income assistance recipients are encouraged to gain work experience through voluntary work with private sector employers, and public or nonprofit organizations. In order to assist clients in this, the ministry will provide an allowance (for up to six months) to help with related expenses such as transportation and suitable clothing.

In 1988/89, $286,968 was spent assisting 1,064 participants through this program.

### *Day Care Surcharge*

Single parents who leave income assistance and become employed can continue receiving assistance of up to $150 a month for one year toward the day care surcharge. The day care surcharge is the difference between the actual cost of day care and the maximum assistance available as a day care subsidy.

### *Work Activity Projects*

The Work Activity Projects combine life skills training, educational upgrading, counselling and work experience to provide a comprehensive approach to social rehabilitation and to resolve the personal or family problems a client may be facing.

To qualify for the projects, an income assistance recipient must exhibit serious barriers to employment such as a lack of work skills, low educational level, low self-esteem, poor life skills, and personal or family problems that interfere with his or her ability to adjust to the work force. The recipient must also be motivated to participate in the program.

The new emphasis on area and regional initiatives in program development will likely lead to requests for WAP programs in the regions, especially as the economy continues to improve and the longer term, less job-ready clients are seen to require more counselling in life skills and work experience.

> **Steve, 19, is a highschool drop-out with a grade 10 education. Although bright, he has a learning disability. After receiving income assistance for over one year Steve was placed in a work experience position with a fireplace manufacturer and installer. He was later hired and has worked for over one year, advancing from helper to installer to salesman.**

A total of $315,261 was spent on Work Activity Projects in 1988/89. 82 clients were assisted.

### *Enhanced Earnings Exemption*

Eligible recipients who have received income assistance for three consecutive months may keep a portion of their job earnings to assist with work-related expenses. The policy allows for an earnings exemption of up to $50 per month for single persons and up to $100 per month for single handicapped persons and persons with dependants.

The Enhanced Earnings Exemption was introduced to help recipients become independent of income assistance. In the fourth month on assistance, employable recipients qualify for the standard earnings exemption. In addition, they qualify for an additional exemption of 25 percent of their monthly earnings on amounts above the standard exemption, until their earnings are too high to qualify for benefits, or for up to 12 months.

Where it would be to their advantage, unemployed or handicapped recipients may choose to opt into the Enhanced Earnings Exemption Program.

### TABLE 58

### Enhanced Earnings Exemption, Number of Cases, as of March 1989

| Recipient | Cases With Flat Exemption | Cases With Enhanced Exemption | Total Cases Using An Exemption |
|---|---|---|---|
| Income Assistance | 3,307 | 8,428 | 11,735 |
| Handicapped Benefit | 1,133 | 433 | 1,566 |
| Inclusive | 4,440 | 8,861 | 13,301 |

# THE MINISTRY INVESTIGATORS PROGRAM

The objective of the Investigators program is to prevent fraud and abuse of the Income Assistance programs. Under the direction of the Area Managers, 34 ministry investigators review all reports of fraud and program abuse. They also train financial assistance workers to recognize fraudulent information on applications, and acquaint them with the types of fraud known to be common to the geographical location of the office.

The ministry has the authority to prosecute fraudulent acts through the criminal courts, however, emphasis is placed on prevention of fraud rather than on "after the fact" investigation and prosecution.

In 1988/89 a position was established to examine cashed Income Assistance cheques. By monitoring the cashing of cheques Ministry Investigators hope to identify trends in program abuse methods more quickly.

6,329 reports of fraud were investigated in the 1988/89 fiscal year, which resulted in 233 criminal charges being laid against 126 persons. Further, 2,187 settlements were negotiated without court action, resulting in the recovery of $3,120,185.

As it can be assumed that fraudulent claims and overpayments would have continued if left undetected, the total savings achieved by the program cannot be estimated. As well, savings resulting from the preventive nature of the program cannot be measured.

**TABLE 59**

**Monthly Report of Cases Referred to Investigators for Investigation, 1984/85 to 1988/89**

| | 1988/89 | 1987/88 | 1986/87 | 1985/86 | 1984/85 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| April | 504 | 656 | 825 | 921 | 812 |
| May | 324 | 753 | 849 | 691 | 869 |
| June | 567 | 778 | 642 | 808 | 880 |
| July | 351 | 780 | 853 | 785 | 595 |
| August | 659 | 673 | 687 | 720 | 820 |
| September | 412 | 736 | 817 | 662 | 678 |
| October | 539 | 909 | 762 | 822 | 741 |
| November | 633 | 849 | 711 | 643 | 670 |
| December | 471 | 624 | 545 | 607 | 640 |
| January | 716 | 731 | 908 | 749 | 942 |
| February | 531 | 751 | 871 | 779 | 1,031 |
| March | 622 | 701 | 818 | 768 | 869 |
| Total | 6,329 | 8,941 | 9,288 | 8,955 | 9,547 |

## TABLE 60

### Ministry Investigators Program, Statistical Data Covering All Regions, 1984/85 to 1988/89

| | 1988/89 | 1987/88 | 1986/87 | 1985/86 | 1984/85 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Cases Reported for Investigation | 6,329 | 8,941 | 9,288 | 8,955 | 9,547 |
| Charges Laid | 126 | 218 | 195 | 164 | 246 |
| Cases Still Before Court at March 31 | 88 | 161 | 138 | 119 | 144 |
| Investigations Completed | 6,441 | 8,904 | 9,215 | 8,707 | 8,589 |
| Settlements Negotiated Out of Court | 2,187<br>$3,120,185 | 2,898<br>$3,663,500 | 2,054<br>$2,607,432 | 2,022<br>$2,156,049 | 1,786<br>$1,678,957 |
| Total Monthly Assistance Terminated Due to Investigators Program | $1,128,418<br>(1,008) | $571,232<br>(1,308) | $488,219<br>(1,317) | $512,291<br>(1,357) | $533,415<br>(1,786) |

# SECTION 8

# *Services to Seniors*

# INTRODUCTION TO SERVICES TO SENIORS

The 75+ age group is the fastest growing segment of the population in Canada today. As the provincial population ages, more services for the elderly are required. In recognition of this, the Ministry of Social Services and Housing offers a variety of programs designed to meet the special needs of senior citizens and to support and enhance their independence, health and well-being.

The programs are provided in the areas of **income assistance**, GAIN for Seniors and Shelter Aid For Elderly Renters (SAFER) and **counselling and support** (the Bus Pass Program and the Senior Citizen Counsellors Program).

# INCOME ASSISTANCE

Income assistance for seniors is offered under the authority of the GAIN (Guaranteed Available Income for Need) Act.

## GAIN for Seniors Supplement

Senior citizens who receive the federal Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) as well as Old Age Security (OAS) benefits and Spouses' Allowance are guaranteed a minimum monthly income by the Province. Benefits are paid automatically using information obtained from the Old Age Security division of Health and Welfare Canada.

Provincial rates are determined on the basis of the senior's federal OAS and GIS and other declared income. A provincial rate level is set to the bring the monthly income up to a current minimum level.

The number of recipients receiving federal GIS has decreased over the last several years as a result of increased pension incomes.

As of March, 1989, the number of provincial GAIN for Seniors Supplement recipients totalled 50,006. Expenditures for the fiscal year were $22,661,000.

### TABLE 61

### GAIN for Seniors Supplement Recipients (as of March) and Expenditures 1984/85 to 1988/89

| Year | Recipients | Expenditures |
|---|---|---|
| 1988/89 | 50,006 | $22,661,000 |
| 1987/88 | 45,012 | 20,486,940 |
| 1986/87 | 42,796 | 16,044,659 |
| 1985/86 | 44,547 | 16,744,294 |
| 1984/85 | 46,967 | 17,682,686 |

## Supplementary GAIN

Supplementary GAIN is available for seniors who do not receive Old Age Security benefits. In March, 1989, there were 2,044 recipients.

## GAIN for Mixed Families with Old Age Security Component

Supplementary GAIN is also provided for families where at least one member is over the age of 65 and receives federal Old Age Security benefits, and where other family members qualify for benefits under other income assistance programs. In March, 1989, there were 292 persons who qualified for assistance under this program.

## Shelter Aid For Elderly Renters (SAFER)

Authorized under the *Shelter Aid For Elderly Renters Act*, this program provides cash assistance to Old Age Security (OAS) recipients who live in rental accommodation. SAFER benefits are available if the client's rent exceeds 30 percent of their income, and are calculated to reimburse 75 percent of the amount which exceeds the 30 percent limit.

In 1988/89, the maximum monthly rent that could be claimed was $330 for a single person and $365 for a couple.

To be eligible for SAFER, an applicant must be over the age of 65, must receive OAS, and must rent a principal residence in British Columbia. Either the applicant or the applicant's spouse must have resided in the province for two years immediately prior to application, or for five continuous years at any time in the past.

## TABLE 62

## SAFER, Average Monthly Benefits, Total SAFER Cases and Expenditures, 1983/84 to 1988/89

| Year | Average Benefits/Mth for Singles (to March) | Average Benefits/Mth for Couples (to March) | Average Benefits/Mth for Sharers (to March) | Total Cases | Expenditures |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1988/89 | $58.99 | $10.03 | — | 7,722 | $5,729,134 |
| 1987/88 | 63.15 | 15.04 | — | 8,436 | 6,498,907 |
| 1986/87 | 66.89 | 20.84 | — | 8,997 | 7,140,658 |
| 1985/86 | 70.09 | 26.02 | — | 9,384 | 8,003,816 |
| 1984/85 | 80.28 | 31.35 | $8.00 | 9,962 | 9,129,701 |

# COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT

Counselling and support services are offered through the Rehabilitation and Support Services Division.

### Bus Pass Program

The ministry's Bus Pass Program permits eligible clients to purchase a one-year pass at a reduced rate to travel on the public transit system. It is provided to encourage and aid the mobility of low income seniors and handicapped persons.

To be eligible for a bus pass an individual must be a resident of British Columbia. In addition, they must receive the federal Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS), Spouse's Allowance or GAIN for Seniors Supplement; be 60 years of age or older and in receipt of GAIN; or be designated as handicapped and receive GAIN for Handicapped benefits.

The bus pass is not valid on HandyDart or on private systems, but can be used on the Skytrain part of the Greater Vancouver public transit system. Most pass holders live in the area served by the Greater Vancouver system; Victoria ranks second.

As of January 1, 1988, the cost of the bus pass was $32 per year. As of January 1, 1989, the cost was $36 per year.

In 1988/89, the administrative efficiency of the program improved substantially, partly through the use of a computer system that helps to establish eligibility.

## TABLE 63

### Gross Payments to B.C. Transit for Bus Passes, to March 31, 1989, and Number of Passes on December 31, 1988 (by District)

| District | Gross Payments (March 31, 1989) | Number (December 31, 1988) |
|---|---|---|
| Greater Vancouver | $7,081,440 | 21,161 |
| Greater Victoria | 869,712 | 3,224 |
| Other Communities | 412,980 | 2,493 |
| Total | 8,364,132 | 26,878 |

## TABLE 64

### Number of Bus Pass Holders on December 31, from 1984 to 1988

| Year | Number |
|---|---|
| 1988 | 26,878 |
| 1987 | 32,735 |
| 1986 | 32,879 |
| 1985 | 30,479 |
| 1984 | 30,766 |

## The Senior Citizen Counsellors Program

Senior Citizen Counsellors are senior citizens located in communities throughout British Columbia who volunteer their time and energy to help their peers.

The counsellors come from all walks of life, and draw on their experiences to assist their fellow seniors in a variety of ways. They offer information about the services and programs available in the community, provide emotional support and counselling, and perform other services as needed to enhance the independence and well-being of senior citizens in their communities.

Counsellors are appointed by the ministry for their abilities and interest and involvement with their peers. Provincial workshops are held every two years, and local workshops are put on as required to keep the counsellors up-to-date on the kinds of services available to senior citizens in British Columbia.

The counsellors submit monthly activity reports and may claim reimbursement for expenses of up to $125 per month.

As of March 1989, there were 157 counsellors. Expenditures for the program in the 1988/89 fiscal year were $241,000.

## TABLE 65

## Senior Citizen Counsellors, Expenditures, 1983/84 to 1988/89

| Year | Expenditures |
|---|---|
| 1988/89 | $241,563 |
| 1987/88 | 204,679[1] |
| 1986/87 | 196,100[1] |
| 1985/86 | 185,557 |
| 1984/85 | 227,251[1] |

[1] These figures include expenditures for provincial workshops.

## SECTION 9

# *Housing*

# HOUSING

## Housing Highlights for 1988/89

- In 1988 there were 1,833 social housing units allocated throughout the province, representing approximately $100 million in construction costs. The units will be located as follows: 1,486 in the Lower Mainland, 328 on Vancouver Island and 19 in the Interior of B.C.

- In December 1988, a heat subsidy program was introduced to assist eligible tenants in 58 communities with the cost of heating. Under the program, the combined total of rent and heating will not exceed 30 percent of a tenant's income. The actual amount of the heat subsidy is determined by the size of the rental unit and its geographical location. The program will assist as many as 2,000 tenants.

# BRITISH COLUMBIA HOUSING MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

The British Columbia Housing Management Commission (BCHMC) administers provincial and federal/provincial housing programs on behalf of the Ministry of Social Services and Housing.

The Commission was authorized by the *Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing Act* and by Order in Council No. 2388 of September 7, 1978. Although it does not administer any specific legislation, its expenditures are authorized under the *National Housing Act* and the *Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing Act*.

The objective of BCHMC is to assist in providing affordable housing for persons who otherwise would have to spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent, and disabled persons who require specially equipped and designed homes not available in the housing market.

To achieve this objective, BCHMC works to identify the housing needs of British Columbians; ensures funds for social housing are targeted to those most in need; develops and implements provincial social housing policies; manages provincial and federal/provincial housing and property; administers rent supplement programs in housing managed by BCHMC; and monitors the effectiveness of the provincial programs.

The Commission also monitors social housing developments to ensure they are consistent with neighborhood design, are built to minimize maintenance and operational costs, and meet quality standards of construction for modern, sound and aesthetic properties.

Social housing in British Columbia is allocated to low and moderate income families, senior citizens, hard to house older singles and disabled persons on the basis of need with the goal of achieving a social and economic integration of residents in a safe, secure environment.

Prior to 1986, the Federal Government through the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation administered and delivered social housing programs. In 1986, Provincial housing roles were expanded under the Federal/Provincial Global Agreement to include delivery of all Provincially-led social housing which is cost-shared, with the Federal Government contributing 67 percent of the subsidies.

Since 1986, the partnership between the federal and provincial governments, the private sector and nonprofit societies has produced 5,516 housing units.

In British Columbia 51,000 units of social housing have been made available to persons in need. BCHMC has played a direct role with respect to 36,500 units: as property manager for 8,000 units (built prior to 1980), and as administrator of agreements and rent subsidies on 28,500 units developed through nonprofit and private sector programs.

### Regional Organization

BCHMC's Home Office is located in Burnaby. Regional Offices are located in Vancouver, Surrey, Penticton and Victoria. Area Offices are located in Prince George and Prince Rupert.

The Home Office has five branches: Social Housing, Field Operations, Development and Technical Services, Financial and Administrative Services, and Personnel and Labour Relations.

## THE PROGRAMS

### Non-Profit Housing Program

Groups such as nonprofit societies, public agencies and cooperatives may apply for assistance in providing nonprofit social housing. Projects are selected by competition from bids submitted to BCHMC. Tenants pay 30 percent of their income as rent, and the remaining costs are made up by shared Federal and Provincial funding.

### Rent Supplement Program

Rent supplements are available for selected market housing units and federal cooperative units to make up the difference between the competitive market rents and 30 percent of the tenants' income.

### Special Facilities Program

This program funds the development of nonprofit housing for adults with special needs who require on-site care. BCHMC provides a subsidy to make up the difference between the operating cost of the facility and the rent paid by tenants.

### Special Purpose Housing Program

Nonprofit societies can obtain assistance in offering housing to individuals with special needs (temporary shelters, and housing for children and for disabled individuals who require some nursing care). The subsidy is provided in the form of a mortgage write-down to a two percent interest rate.

## 1988 SOCIAL HOUSING ALLOCATION

In 1988 there were 1,833 social housing units allocated throughout the province, representing approximately $100 million in construction costs. The units will be located as follows: 1,486 in the Lower Mainland, 328 on Vancouver Island and 19 in the Interior of B.C.

| Category | Nonprofit | Rent Supplement |
|---|---|---|
| Seniors/Older Singles | 644 | — |
| Families | 580 | 178 |
| Disabled | 213 | 21 |

In addition: 28 Special Facilities units
169 Special Purpose units

Totals:

| | |
|---|---|
| Nonprofit | 1,437 |
| Rent Supplements | 199 |
| Special Facilities/Special Purpose | 197 |
| Units | 1,833 |

## TRENDS AND VARIATIONS

During the last fiscal quarter of 1988/89 BCHMC undertook an extensive review of existing housing programs and housing needs of British Columbians, in conjunction with other ministries, groups and private sector partners involved in housing.

The result of the review was to expand the role and mandate of housing in this ministry, and to develop a team approach with participating ministries to address the housing issues currently facing the province.

A Housing Action Plan was developed which divided short and long term strategies into three categories:

- Rental Assistance Programs
- Rental Supply Programs
- Home Ownership Programs

These programs will begin in fiscal 1989/90 with the following goals:

- To maximize the involvement of the private sector in meeting rental housing needs

- To help British Columbians meet market prices for housing
- To increase the supply of affordable rental housing
- To help British Columbians buy and maintain their homes

**NOTE:** For further information on the programs administered, refer to the Annual Report published by the British Columbia Housing Management Commission.

# SECTION 10

# *Ministry Administration*

# MINISTRY ADMINISTRATION

## Highlights of 1988/89

- When the ministry was reorganized in 1988/89, a massive redistribution of field offices and staff occurred. The Property Services Branch of Administrative Services Division arranged the provision of 111 new offices; 66 offices were already in use by the end of the fiscal year and work had begun on additional 45.
- The CAP Accounting Office of the ministry's Financial Planning Division continued to improve the timeliness of final claim audit and settlement this fiscal year. The British Columbia office now boasts the second best record of the twelve offices across Canada.
- The Systems Services Division completed work on the ministry's new Day Care Payment System, which will speed up payment to suppliers of day care.
- Also with the help of Systems Services, the ministry expanded its PROFS network by 360. 760 ministry employees can now communicate through the computer terminals on their desks.

  The PROFS network is used extensively for communicating with ministry staff. It is used to inform staff of personnel and administrative announcements, news releases and program information. An issue update format allows field staff to alert the ministry's Executive and the Information Services Division of all potentially public issues. PROFS also provides a variety of functions for individual users.

There are six administrative divisions offering centralized support services to ministry staff: Administrative Services, Audit Services, Corporate Services, Financial Planning, Financial Services, Information Services, Personnel and Staff Training, and Systems Services.

## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The Administrative Services Division has four branches: Asset Management and Supply Services, Offices Services, Procedural Services and Property Services.

### Asset Management and Supply Services

The Asset Management and Supply Services Branch implements and maintains asset management systems, vehicle fleet operation procedures; purchases furniture, office equipment, printing services and vehicles; and coordinates the mail service. The branch is the main contact with the Queen's Printer, Vehicle Management and Postal Services branches of the Ministry of Government Management Services.

### Office Services Branch

The Office Services Branch maintains the staff telephone directory, staff list and mailing lists for manuals; controls and distributes manual amendments and operational directives; and provides administrative support for the division.

### Procedural Services Branch

The Procedural Services Branch develops office procedures, designs and supplies forms and monitors the production and quality of ministry manuals. The branch also coordinates records management, and in 1988/89, introduced the Administrative Records Classification System for records storage, retrieval and disposal.

### Property Services Branch

The Property Services Branch works with the British Columbia Buildings Corporation to provide office space for staff. The branch also works with staff to design office interiors that meet space and movement requirements, and monitors STOB 65 (office accommodation) costs.

# AUDIT SERVICES DIVISION

The Audit Services Division monitors ministry systems and operations to evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of internal control systems, and to determine whether policy is correctly and uniformly administered throughout the ministry.

Audit Services reports directly to the Office of the Deputy Minister. This ensures audit findings and recommendations are considered at the highest management level while allowing the division the independence it needs to meet its objectives.

Audit appraisal activities are coordinated through an audit committee. The committee, which forms a direct link with the ministry executive, endorses audit activities and promotes interest in establishing and maintaining good systems of internal control.

**TABLE 66**

**Audits Completed 1988/89**

| | |
|---|---|
| Ministry Regional Offices | 2 |
| Ministry District and Resources Offices | 37 |
| Nonprofit Organizations Funded by the Ministry | 1 |
| Systems Audits | 1 |
| Special Audits | 2 |

# CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

Three branches make up the Corporate Services Division: Emergency Social Services; Research, Evaluation and Statistics; and Policy, Planning and Legislation.

## Emergency Social Services Branch

Emergency Social Services is feeding, clothing, counselling, shelter and registration of victims, evacuees and response workers during civil emergencies and disasters. The Emergency Social Services Branch assists municipalities in planning these services and provides coordination and additional resources to augment municipal efforts during major disasters.

In 1988/89, the ministry continued to contract training of municipal emergency social services volunteers and to assist the Canadian Red Cross in conducting Registration and Inquiry workshops through the province. In addition, the ministry concluded letters of agreement with the Salvation Army, the Canadian Red Cross, the Restaurant and Foodservices Association of British Columbia, the British Columbia Retail Merchants Association, and the British Columbia Housing Management Commission to develop a provincial Emergency Social Services Plan for user in major disasters.

The branch also participated in the drafting of the provincial Earthquake Response Plan and in the finalizing of the federal Catastrophic Earthquake Support Plan.

## Policy, Planning and Legislation Branch

As a result of rapid changes in the social and economic environment, the need for long-range planning by public sector organizations has become increasingly critical. The Policy, Planning and Legislation Branch is responsible for establishing and maintaining the process and events which constitute the ministry's annual planning cycle and for the publication of the ministry's annual strategic planning document. This function ensures that, consistent with the overall direction and goals of government, the ministry sets and pursues its goals and objectives in a rational way and establishes a version which is clear and understood throughout the organization.

Branch staff coordinate the annual legislative program of the ministry to ensure the existence of a sound legislative base for existing programs and services and in support of new initiatives.

Staff are responsible for the conduct of major projects and initiatives within the ministry and between ministries. The branch plays a lead role in developing corporate policy and programs in areas such as Purchase of Service contracting, Women's Programs, Risk Management, and Access to Information.

## Research, Evaluation and Statistics Branch

The Research, Evaluation and Statistics Branch develops statistical information used to monitor and evaluate ministry programs, evaluates those programs, analyzes policy and program proposals and provides information and consultation to the deputy minister, ministry executive, and division and regional directors.

Comprehensive data collection and program evaluation are essential for public accountability and effective service delivery. In 1988/89 a number of projects were initiated:

An extensive evaluation of employment and training programs for income assistance recipients was begun. The evaluation includes a follow-up of long-term clients to determine how participation in the ministry's programs affects future income. The study includes personal, one-on-one contact with program participants, and will produce more reliable results than have previous surveys.

The ministry's database of day care information was computerized to provide for more accurate cost estimates and to simplify caseload management.

A system was developed to monitor and evaluate supported work placements for adults with mental handicaps.

# FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL AGREEMENTS DIVISION

The Federal/Provincial Agreements Division is responsible for negotiations under three agreements between the Province and the Federal Government. These agreements are: The Canada Assistance Plan Agreement (CAP), the Four Cornered Agreement to Enhance the Employability of Social Assistance Recipients, and the Memorandum of Understanding on Indian Child Welfare.

The division also works to ensure that ministerial and provincial priorities are considered when federal/provincial social policy is developed.

Canada contributes a significant share of the ministry's operation and program costs under the *Canada Assistance Plan (CAP) Act* of 1966. The Federal/Provincial Agreements Division works with divisional and program directors to ensure maximum cost sharing revenue is recovered from the federal government for ministry programs.

To accomplish this, the division analyzes the cost sharing implications of proposed policies, procedures and legislation. Any cost sharing approved for ministry programs is managed through the Canada Assistance Plan (CAP) Accounting Office.

In 1988/89 the Federal/Provincial Agreements Division

- recovered more than $2 million in retroactive revenue for alcohol and drug treatment programs.
- framed the provincial response to the National Child Care Strategy.
- continued to review and record microfiche information from federal/provincial agreement files from 1980 to 1987. When completed, the project will provide an easily accessed record of cost sharing correspondence since CAP was established in 1966.
- produced a cost sharing kit designed to assist ministry staff in making preliminary cost sharing assessments of new policies and programs.

# FINANCIAL PLANNING DIVISION

The Financial Planning Division has two components: The Financial Planning Section and the Canada Assistance Plan (CAP) Accounting Office.

## The Financial Planning Section

The Financial Planning Section is responsible for coordinating the budget preparation and review process; preparing financial forecasts during the fiscal year; financial management reporting; maintaining the ministry's Chart of Accounts; and ensuring compliance with instructions of the Treasury Board and the Office of the Comptroller General.

The Financial Planning Section was challenged by the 1988/89 ministry reorganization which increased the number of field office budgets from 17 to 68 and required a major overhaul of the ministry's Chart of Accounts.

During the past year the Financial Planning Division developed a computerized Commitment Monitoring System to forecast annual commitments for most of the ministry's contracted resource budgets. Details of contracted resource services (such as type of service, fixed or variable budgets, number of beds) are input to the system at the regional offices. Fiscal year expenditures for each resource budget can then be projected.

## The CAP Accounting Office

The Canada Assistance Plan (CAP) Accounting Office is responsible for the administration of a cost-sharing agreement between the Province of British Columbia and the Federal Government, made under the provisions of the *CAP Act*. This agreement provides for the sharing of specific costs related to financial assistance and other welfare programs provided by the province through the Ministry of Social Services and Housing, other ministries, and municipalities within the province. The office also provides accounting services which enable the recovery from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada of actual costs related to caring for Native children-in-care.

In 1988/89, ministry program expenditures totalled $1,456.4 million, of which $1,208.6 million was eligible for cost sharing.

The CAP Accounting Office recovered

- $604.3 million from the federal government for the Ministry of Social Services and Housing's current year expenditures, and $4.5 million in revenue for adjustments to previous years' claims
- $59.1 million for other ministries' programs (including $2.7 million for cost sharing programs of previous years).

- **$1.6 million for municipalities**
- **$16.6 million from INAC**

**The majority of social housing programs are also cost shared with the federal government through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). Net expenditure by British Columbia Housing Management Commission for administering programs this fiscal year was $43,782,740, of which $41,386,168 was eligible for cost sharing. CHMC's contribution amounted to $26,217,871.**

## FINANCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

The Financial Services Division is responsible for all financial and accounting functions of the ministry with the exception of the budget preparation and monitoring processes which are the responsibility of the Financial Planning Section.

The division develops and implements all financial policies and procedures. Divisional staff also work with the Systems Services Division to ensure that financial control issues are adequately addressed in all systems initiatives.

In 1988/89, the division administered the Services to Seniors Program, the Dental Services Program, the B.C. Second Mortgage Program and the B.C. Home Program. The Day Care Payment System was developed and implemented, and work continued on the Financial Management Information System (FMIS), an integrated system which will support accounts payable, commitment accounting, budgetary control and improved management reporting.

Other developments in the 1988/89 fiscal year include a strategic plan for financial systems, improvements to the Payroll System, and implementation of a leave management system.

## INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISION

The Information Services Division plans and implements ministry communications, manages issues, informs the public of ministry activities and programs, and coordinates the production of all communications materials released by the ministry.

In order to ensure the ministry's point of view is fairly represented in the press and that the public is adequately informed of ministry activities and initiatives, the division works with ministry executive and program staff to develop and implement an overall Communications Plan.

Division activities include helping program staff to design and carry out program promotion and communication needs; implementing inter-ministry communications; and preparing and distributing all public information materials such as press releases, pamphlets, newsletters and the annual report. Staff also respond to all media and public inquiries.

In 1988/89, the Information Services Division worked with program divisions to provide a number of ministry promotional and informational programs, including the Foster Parent Recruitment campaign, the Employment Plus campaign and the public information campaign for the Woodlands downsizing project.

## PERSONNEL AND STAFF TRAINING DIVISION

The Personnel and Staff Training Division provides a full range of services in the areas of staff recruitment and selection, human resource planning, training and library services, job classification and organization, employee relations and occupational health and safety, and maintains ministry personnel information.

The division operates under the statutory authority of the *Public Service Act* and the *Public Service Labour Relations Act*. Specific policies and procedures are established by the Ministry of Finance, Government Personnel Services Division and executive of the Ministry of Social Services and Housing.

Personnel offices are located in Victoria, Vancouver, New Westminster (Woodlands) and Prince George, Kamloops, Kelowna and Nanaimo.

As of March 31, 1989, there were 4,454 full-time equivalent positions in the ministry. Of these positions, 2,807 were assigned to field services (social workers, financial assistance workers, rehabilitation officers and administrative support staff); 76 in After Hours; 939.5 were assigned to Woodlands (nurses, health care workers and other staff required to operate a 24-hour facility); 535.5 were in program divisions and headquarters offices (senior administrators, and divisional and program support staff); and 96 were assigned to miscellaneous areas.

# SYSTEMS SERVICES DIVISION

The Systems Services Division is responsible for planning, developing, implementing, operating and maintaining data processing systems and services.

Activities of the division include providing education, staff training and documented support (manuals) on the systems available to the ministry. Systems staff also help other staff identify and solve systems problems, help set systems priorities and help select new systems, and work with ministry staff to establish systems security controls.

A number of projects were completed or initiated in 1988/89.

- The GAIN Management Information System underwent an extensive revision. The new system will support the GAIN policy changes which assist unemployable clients to independence.
- The new Accounts Payable System was completed. The system improves the quality and timeliness of accounts payable information required by management and staff, and provides improved financial security controls and audit trails.
- Work was completed on the new Day Care Payment System, making payment to day care suppliers faster.

**In 1988/89 the ministry expanded its PROFS network by 360. 760 ministry employees can now communicate through the computer terminals on their desks.**

**The PROFS network is used extensively for communicating with ministry staff. It is used to inform staff of personnel and administrative announcements, news releases and program information. An issue update format allows field staff to alert the ministry's Executive and the Information Services Division of all potentially public issues. PROFS are also provides a variety of functions for individual users.**

## SECTION 11

# *Legislation Administered by the Ministry of Social Services and Housing*

# LEGISLATION ADMINISTERED BY THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING

The Ministry of Social Services and Housing administered the following legislation during the 1988/89 fiscal year:

***Adoption Act*, RSBC 1979, Chapter 4, (Consolidated September 1985) and Regulations (B.C. Regulation 278-78) and Amendments.**

The purpose of this act is to provide the same rights and privileges for adopted children as for children born to parents in a family.

***Child Paternity and Support Act*, RSBC 1979, Chapter 49, (Consolidated January 1984) and Amendments.**

This act provides the mothers of children born out of wedlock with the right to obtain financial support for the children from the fathers.

***Community Resource Board Act*, RSBC 1979, Chapter 58, (Consolidated January 1984) and Regulations (B.C. Regulation 655-75).**

This act empowers the government to establish human resource and health centres where provincial income assistance programs, social services and health services may be administered by boards composed of local citizens.

***Family and Child Service Act*, RSBC 1980, Chapter 11, (Consolidated September 1985) and Amendments.**

This act provides statutory procedures for protection and care of children who are neglected, abused, abandoned or living without proper supervision or guardianship.

***Guaranteed Available Income for Need Act*, RSBC 1979, Chapter 158, (Consolidated September 1985) and Regulations (B.C. Regulation 479-76), Consolidated January 1986) and Amendments.**

This act and its regulations provide for essential financial assistance and social services for eligible individuals and families. The social services include day care, family support services, residential care, counselling and rehabilitation services.

***Human Resource Facility Act*, RSBC 1979, Chapter 185 (Consolidated October 1982) and Regulations (B.C. Regulation 586-76).**

This act and its regulations authorize provincial grants to nonprofit organizations for the development of residential facilities or centres for children, disabled persons and senior citizens.

***Ministry of Human Resources Act*, RSBC 1979, Chapter 274, and Amendments.**

This act establishes the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Human Resources in all matters relating to social and public welfare and income assistance.

***Residence and Responsibility Act*, RSBC 1979, Chapter 364, (Consolidated September 1984) and Regulations (B.C. Regulations 283-71 and 284-71).**

This act requires municipalities to contribute to the costs of specific social assistance programs for persons in need. (There have been no cases where the municipality has had to contribute since 1982.)

***Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters Act*, RSBC 1979, Chapter 385, and Regulations (B.C. Regulation 298-77, Consolidated January 1984).**

This act provides for payment of monthly cash assistance to eligible residents of the province who receive Old Age Security benefits and who pay more than 30 per cent of their income on rent.

***Social Workers Act*, RSBC 1979, Chapter 389, (Consolidated January 1984).**

This act permits the government to establish the Board of Registration for social workers.

Effective August 14, 1986, the Minister of Social Services and Housing became responsible for the following acts and regulations pertaining to housing:

***Home Conversion and Leasehold Loan Act*, RSBC 1979, Chapter 170, (Consolidated March, 1983) and Regulations (B.C. Regulation 439/74, Consolidated July, 1984).**

This act provides financial assistance to families constructing residences on leasehold property and provides financial assistance to individuals and corporations for conversion of residential, commercial and industrial premises to create new rental housing.

***Homeowner Interest Assistance Act*, RSBC 1979, Chapter 70, (Consolidated November 1986), and British Columbia Home Program Regulations (B.C. Regulation 458/82, Consolidated January 1984).**

This act establishes a program which provides financial assistance to homeowners to reduce the effect of high mortgage interest rates.

***Home Purchase Assistance Act*, RSBC 1979, Chapter 172, (Consolidated November, 1986), Regulations (B.C. Regulation 244/83, Consolidated May, 1986) and Cost of Residence Regulations (B.C. Regulation 269/81, Consolidated July, 1983).**

This act provides loans and grants to assist individuals to purchase homes.

***Housing Construction (Elderly Citizens) Act*, RSBC 1979, Chapter 184, and Senior Citizens Housing Regulations (B.C. Regulation 164/81).**

This act provides financial assistance to local government and nonprofit societies for the construction of low cost rental housing units for elderly citizens with low a income.

***Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing Act*, RSBC 1979, Chapter 277.**

This act authorizes continuation of the British Columbia Housing Management Commission and authorizes the commission to act as agent of the Crown. Order-in-council 1578 assigns powers, functions and duties to the Minister of Social Services and Housing.

***Provincial Home Acquisition Act*, RSBC 1967, Chapter 39, (Consolidated September 1976) and Amendment, Regulation No. 1, (B.C. Regulation 228/67, Consolidated January, 1985) Regulation No. 2, (B.C. Regulation 106/69, Consolidated January, 1985) and Eligibility Committee Regulation (B.C. Regulation 120/71).**

The provisions of this act allowing the government to provide grants or loans for eligible persons to use in the purchase of a home, have been supplanted by the *Home Purchase Assistance Act*. The statue remains in place in order to administer outstanding loans.

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